

Her hesitancy is noticeable. She places the package of 'Plan B' on the counter. The Pharmacist asks if she knows how to take the pills. The patient starts to cry.

His voice is slurred on the phone. He is drinking again. He needs more of his pills. The disjointed answers press the Pharmacist to talk him through a potential suicide.

The recent widow had her daughter-in-law pick up her new prescriptions upon hospital discharge. Hours later she asked the Pharmacist 'please help me to cope with all of this'.

She feels dizzy. She needs an early refill on her prescription for blood pressure medication. The Pharmacist takes her blood pressure. It is very low. The patient has not been taking her medication as prescribed.

The rash was getting worse. The upset stomach and diarrhea was still evident. The Pharmacist asks about allergies.

'My child has a full body rash. Why?'

'I just got stung by a wasp. What should I do?'

'What can I do for my chronic sinusitis? I can't get in to see my doctor for 6 weeks.'

'The doctor was going to call in a new dose of my warfarin today. Can you help?'

It is closing time. The phone rings. An emergency from the hospital needs some medication. Can you wait?

A call at the Pharmacist's home late at night. 'I just got back into town. I don't have any medication left. Can you help?'

It is 2 o'clock. The hunger pains are louder now. I must get to the washroom soon. Sure I'll help.

We chose the profession because we want to 'help' others. Everyone needs to be reimbursed in exchange for their goods and services. Our services go beyond the giving of pills and documentation of such. To continue along this path please don't punish the pharmacy profession from growing and expanding in a positive financial direction.

Some day each of us will experience the 'other side of the counter' in a pharmacy. I only hope that the Pharmacist will still be there to 'help' me.

Sincerely,

Mona E. Meldrum
a Pharmacist who has been helping for 38 years