



Pharmacy Informatics

Impact of Board Certification in Pharmacy Informatics

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Pharmacists (ICHSP)

<https://www.pharmacyinformatics.net>

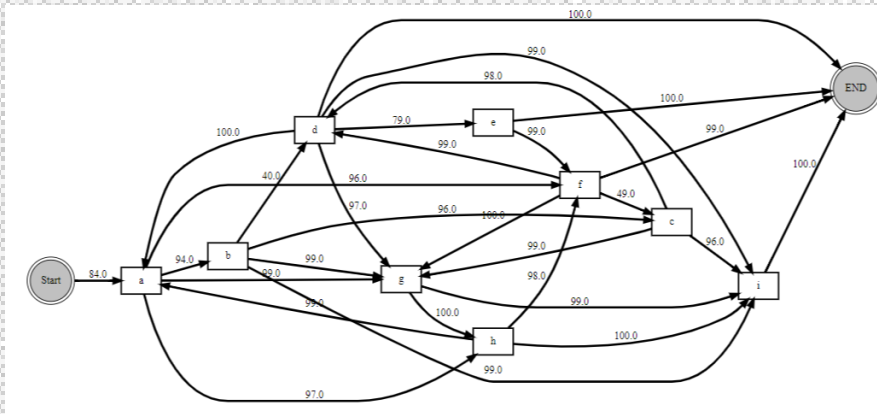


Common Issues Across Pharmacy Informatics



Warning. Some of this is a little exaggerated!

Current Strategy for Getting into Pharmacy Informatics



<https://forum.graphviz.org/t/finding-all-the-possible-paths-from-a-digraph/472>



I think a lot of us in this field can relate to this graphic.

Residency programs do allow for some structured learning and routes into this career path.

But what is there for everyone else that didn't go through a pharmacy residency track?

And what is really the leveling end goal here?

There is More to Pharmacy Informatics Than the Vendors we Use!

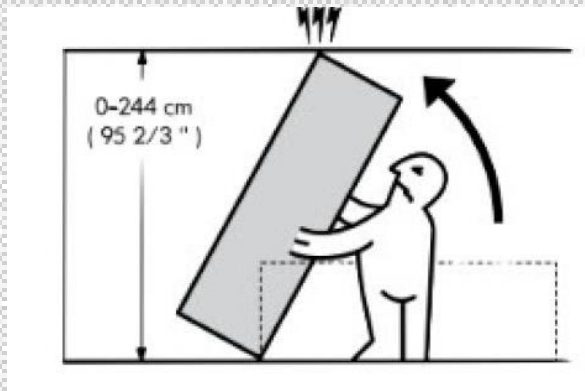


<https://images.app.goo.gl/eaJgRP86NQbRvFj39>



Learning from the vendors is just the beginning of the journey. It is easy to become very comfortable working in these types of silos. We tend to translate very well within our teams and end-users at a very local level. But don't tend to translate as easily across vendors, organizations, regions, countries. What are standards, patterns, and/or best practices across the bigger picture of informatics that can help us collaborate, leverage data, bring innovation to life, etc?

Pharmacy Informatics Career Advancement



<https://images.app.goo.gl/579mLEz2THDGvBew5>



Career ladder options can be limited, particularly in the health-system setting, and do not necessarily have concrete qualifications.

Who is Leading Who?

Pharmacy vs IT



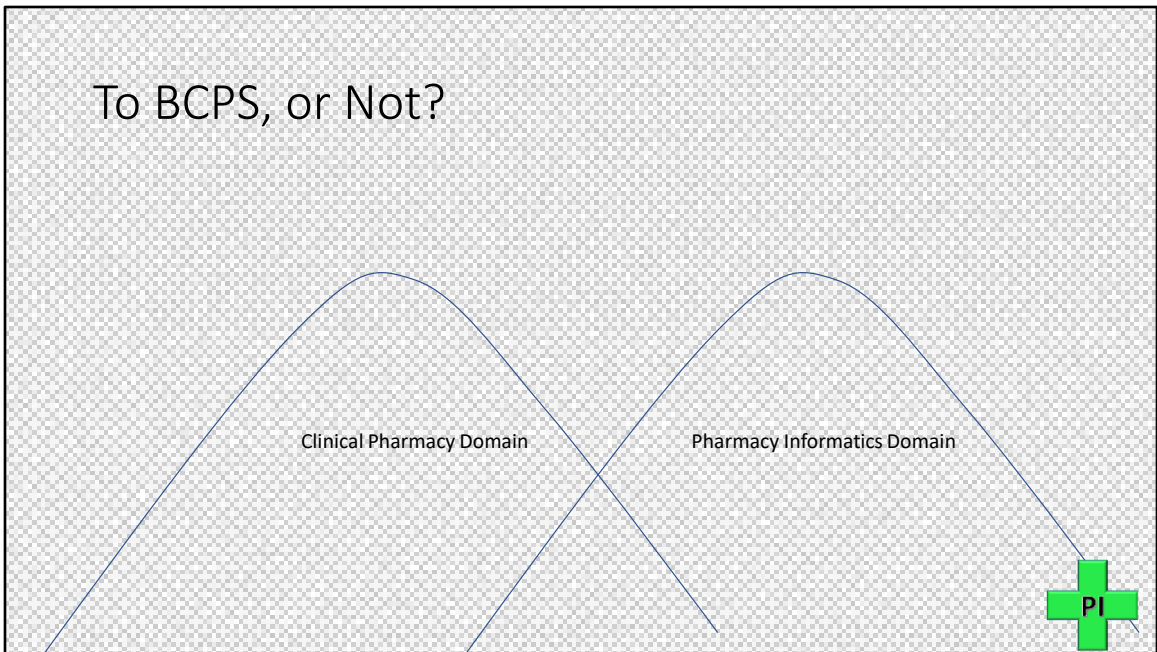
Pharmacists are healthcare professionals.

Emphasize professionals. RPh = take an oath. RPh = have a public duty to protect patients. RPh = have a license.

Software engineers, programmers, developers, etc. They do not despite great power and responsibility.

How can we optimize our position to make sure we are leading the way in the larger health IT space? In other words. If I am Amazon, why would I hire a pharmacist to have oversight over a pharmacy software development and integration team?

To BCPS, or Not?



I am at a point where I have BCPS certified pharmacists in pharmacy informatics that are asking if it is good to renew their certification. And there is not exactly an easy answer to that. In good faith, I do believe that we are clinical pharmacist foremost. But is something like BCPS making a difference in the advancement of PI. For some staff, sure, there are synergies. But I don't think this is true for most practitioners.

****In the end, I don't want to profess that pharmacy informatics board certification is a cure to all these problems by any means.

But if it is designed the right way...used the right way, it can be leveraged to help lead our teams to a more common and meaningful path for practice advancement. And can provide an identity and recognition to who we are.

Current State



Available Certificates

- Have eligibility requirements:

- AMIA Health Informatics Certification (AHIC/ACHIP)
- Certified Associate in Healthcare Information and Management Systems (CAHIMS)
- Certified Professional in Healthcare Information and Management Systems (CPHIMS)

Introductory:

- AMIA 10x10 certificate program
- College/University certificates
- ASHP Pharmacy Informatics Certificate



It is not that there is a lack of certificate programs available.

Obviously, most of these are not pharmacy informatics related directly, nor do they effectively represent or recognize pharmacy informatics as a specialty in our profession as a whole.

What are the Benefits of Having a Certificate in Health/Pharmacy Informatics?

- Career advancement
- Professional development
- Networking opportunities
- Job candidacy

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/what-does-healthcare-informatics-certification-mean-meyers-md-mba-1c/>



Any and/or all of the multitude of certs DO have value. Learning is not a bad thing

Available Board Certificates

- 2022 Data
- Clinical Informatics Subspecialty (CIS).....2,313
 - Since 2014 inception
- Informatics Nursing (RN-BC)..... 3,286
 - Since 1992 inception

<https://www.theabpm.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/ABPM-Annual-Report-final.pdf>

<https://www.nursingworld.org/~497c80/globalassets/docs/ancc/ancc-cert-data-website.pdf>



Flipping to Board Certs

One can easily argue what I am saying is a bunch of bunk. But there is also this reality. As a discipline, we are really just lagging behind our other colleagues.

What are the Benefits of Having Board Certification

- Pros
 - Improves quality of experts
 - Distinguishes/recognizes expertise
 - Keeps practitioners up to date
 - Provides a credential that recognizes pharmacy informatics as a real specialty
 - Creates standards for advanced levels of practice



What are the Cons?

- Cons
 - Costs
 - Added time and effort to do your job
 - An additional hurdle to a long list of hurdles (college, graduate school, post graduate residency, board certification, + + +)



The Premise for Clinical Informatics Board Examination for Physicians

- “not to create an examination that would assess all aspects of the domain nor to test a candidate’s knowledge of the latest-breaking medical news of the day but, instead, create an examination that is specifically designed to test the basic lasting concepts within the field of Clinical Informatics.”

Lehmann, Christoph, et al. “Five Years of Clinical Informatics Board Certification for Physicians in the United States of America.” *Yearbook of Medical Informatics*, vol. 27, no. 01, 2018, pp. 237–242, <https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0038-1641198>.



Current BPS Effort

- Confidential!
- The current analysis is a steppingstone towards determining if pharmacy informatics can be a recognized as a specialty



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