

*Educational Session Proposal – Sample Therapeutic Topic*  
ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting

😊 **DOs ...**

- A topic that is **practical** - meaning there will be knowledge, skills, or information that can be applied **right away**.
- Something that has an impact directly on improving patient care.
- A topic is hot, cutting-edge, or offers a new perspective.
- Be specific in your plans: provide details about your session, the need for this session, and what attendees can walk away with after attending.
- Be innovative and creative with active learning strategies.

⊗ **DON'Ts ...**

- Be vague. A vague proposal will likely be rejected, even if the topic is “hot.”
- Offer a topic that can be found in a textbook or doesn't contain something new or different

**Proposed Session Title:** Updates in Anticoagulation Management

**SUBMITTER INFORMATION**

**Name:** Jeremy DeGrado, PharmD, BCPS

**Primary Position**

Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Critical Care, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA

😊 This topic was listed as a Hot Topic – something that members have identified as CE they need. Check the Hot Topics list before you start.  
Bonus points are given for creative, catchy session titles.

**Educational Program Planning Experience:**

Coordinated and presented at local and university CE programs on related clinical topics. Facilitated and presented at hospital continuing education programs. The program was selected as a priority by the Educational Steering Committee of the Clinical Sciences and Specialists and the ASHP membership needs assessment. I was recommended to submit this program by Paul Szumita, vice chair of the Educational Steering Committee of the Clinical Sciences and Specialists.

**Expertise/Qualifications in the topic area:**

Coordinated and presented at local and university CE programs on related clinical topics. Have practiced as a critical care specialist at Brigham and Women's Hospital for the past 3 years, during this time have conducted drug use evaluations, implemented local guidelines and conducted research at the local level on related clinical topics. Member of inpatient and outpatient Brigham and Women's Hospital Anticoagulation Management Service. Actively involved in critical care research, multidisciplinary education and publications at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

😊 Program Chair has expertise with the content & experience with education programs.

It's preferred that you have experience speaking at the NATIONAL level.

The Program chair is well-connected with experts in the field.

**FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS:** In the past 24 months, have you had a financial relationship with any kind and in any amount with an SII-defined ineligible company?

No

😊 Financial relationships related to content will need to be resolved but don't prohibit participation (in most situations).

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## **Brief description and overall purpose of this educational session:**

To evaluate recent literature and updates in the area of anticoagulation management as selected by the Educational Steering Committee of the Clinical Specialists and Scientists. The speakers will cover the following subtopics: pharmacogenomics of warfarin, updates in the use of current anticoagulation medications, and information on new anticoagulation medications in the pipeline. Recent research has revealed new data on how to optimize older anticoagulants in addition to new medication options in the field. Discuss opportunities and barriers to the use of pharmacogenomics and new and future medication therapies. Identify strategies institutions have taken to apply best practice models to improve patient outcomes.

☺ The description and overall purpose are well-developed, providing enough information to get a good picture of the session. It is specific in describing some background to the issue as well as what the session hopes to accomplish.

**Target Audience:** Pharmacist

☺ Always consider your audience. What level practitioner is the attendee: new or experienced? Are the topic and content appropriate for pharmacists and/or technicians?

## **NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

**Describe the practice gap(s) that this session will address:** Many barriers to optimal anticoagulation management with warfarin exist, including food/drug interactions, narrow therapeutic window, bleeding event rates, and the impact of genetic variability on patient success. In addition, gaps exist in the critical evaluation of the literature and practical applications of recently approved agents, such as dabigatran, and new medications in the pipeline, such as rivaroxaban and apixaban in the real-world setting.

☺ ACPE and ACCME want education to address practice gaps and impact learners' competencies. Relevant practice gaps are described.

**Needs Assessment Documentation:** National Guidelines, Peer-Reviewed Literature (List two citations)

**If "Other," describe:**

**Name of expert, guideline, research, etc:** Weitz JI, Hirsh J, Samama MM. New Antithrombotic Drugs: American College of Chest Physicians Evidenced-Based Clinical Practice Guidelines (8th Edition). CHEST 2008;133:234S-256S. Gulseth MP, Grice GR, Dager WE. Pharmacogenomics of Warfarin: Uncovering a Piece of the Warfarin Mystery. Am J Health-Syst Pharm 2009;66:123-133. Garcia D, Libby E, Crowther MA. The New Oral Anticoagulants. Blood 2010;115:15-20

☺ Proposal includes at least 2 relevant citations from recent research and/or guidelines.

**What the expert, guideline, or research says that supports the need:**

Problems with warfarin call for improved safety with application of pharmacogenomics or more ideal agents with greater efficacy, better safety profiles, and less frequent monitoring. New and future medications with various mechanisms show promise.

☺ Attendees want sessions that are practical with a focus on what can be applied at their practice now.

## **SESSION DEVELOPMENT**

**Activity Type: Application-based:** Designed primarily for participants to apply the information learned in the allotted timeframe.

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## Learning Objectives

1. Evaluate recent literature on the pharmacogenomics of warfarin and the real world application for managing patients

😊 Higher-level objectives: “Evaluate” is a higher level of learning than “identify” or “list.” Use the latter objectives sparingly if the session is application-based.

**Active Learning Strategy:** Presentation will be a case-based discussion with consistent interaction with the audience. Moderator will be available with microphone for detailed questions and comments and can poll answers to multiple-choice questions by utilizing hand raising or color-coded cards.

**Learning Assessment:** Case-based questions will be asked throughout presentation. After polling audience, the answers will be highlighted and discussed, reinforcing guidelines, primary literature outcomes, and pearls made during the presentation.

2. Discuss key concepts and recent literature of new anticoagulant agents, such as dabigatran, and potential barriers to their use in specific patient populations

**Active Learning Strategy:** Presentation will be a case-based discussion with consistent interaction with the audience. Moderator will be available with microphone for detailed questions and comments and can poll answers to multiple-choice questions by utilizing hand raising or color-coded cards.

**Learning Assessment:** Case-based questions will be asked throughout presentation. After polling audience, the answers will be highlighted and discussed, reinforcing guidelines, primary literature outcomes, and pearls made during the presentation.

3. Describe new anticoagulant agents being developed, such as rivaroxaban and apixaban, and their potential indications, roles, advantages, and disadvantages in various patient populations.

**Active Learning Strategy:** Presentation will be a case-based discussion with consistent interaction with the audience. Moderator will be available with a microphone for detailed questions and comments and can poll answers to multiple-choice questions by utilizing hand raising.

**Learning Assessment:** Case-based questions will be asked throughout presentation. After polling the audience, the answers will be highlighted and discussed, reinforcing guidelines, primary literature outcomes, and pearls made during the presentation.

**Length of Session:** 2 Hours

😊 Survey results show attendees want shorter sessions, not long ones.

**Educational Level of Content:** Advanced: General working knowledge of the specific content area suggested, information will be provided to expand current expertise.

**Session Outline:**

😊 The active learning is detailed and thorough and shows that the Program Chair has given thought to the activities for the session. The examples given are specific, not vague, and reflect the actual educational content that is planned.

Cases, scenarios, and practice examples are highly effective. Providing participants with feedback is essential.

Traditional Q&A and Panel Discussions do NOT qualify as active learning and reveal that the Program Chair does NOT have a grasp of effective adult learning strategies. [ASHP provides guidance on this in the proposal preparation documents.]

😊 Attendees want a reasonable selection of advanced and intermediate level of content. ASHP is always looking for more proposals that have advanced-level content. When surveyed, attendees prefer the content to be appropriate or more advanced than basic.

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TOPIC	TIME ALLOTTED
Introduction to Critical Care Updates; Strategies in applying evidence-based medicine in the clinical practice setting	5 minutes
Pharmacogenomics of Warfarin	30 minutes
Updates in the Use of Current Anticoagulation Medications	50 minutes
New Anticoagulation Medications in the Pipeline	55 minutes
Questions and Answers	10 minutes

☺ Short introduction with only essential background included.

Attendees are generally not new graduates. Don't - spend too much time on background or old data. Do - spend more time on the new information and strategies for implementing.

**Practice Interest Areas / Keywords:** Ambulatory Care, Cardiology/Anticoagulation, Chronic / Managed Care, Pharmacokinetics, General Clinical Practice

**PROPOSED SPEAKERS**

**Proposed Speaker:** Michael Gulseth, PharmD, BCPS

**Primary Position**

Program Director for Anticoagulation Services, Sanford USD Medical Center, Sioux Falls, SD

**Qualifications:** Dr. Gulseth is the Program Director for Anticoagulation Services at Sanford USD Medical Center. He is involved in research and has published several papers on new anticoagulant medications as well as pharmacogenomics of warfarin. He is also the lead author and editor of *Managing Anticoagulation Patients in the Hospital: the Inpatient Anticoagulation Service*.

☺ External reviewer comment: "All the speakers listed are great."

**Proposed Speaker:** Ann Wittkowsky, PharmD, FASHP

**Primary Position**

Director of Anticoagulation Services, University of Washington Medical Center, University of Washington Medical Center, Seattle, WA

**Qualifications:** Dr. Wittkowsky is a Clinical Professor of Pharmacy at the University of Washington School of Pharmacy in addition to being the Director of Anticoagulation Services at the University of Washington Medical Center. She is a national leader in the topic of anticoagulation management and has lectured extensively on the topic. She is a board-certified anticoagulation care provider and has numerous publications related to anticoagulation therapy.

☺ Geographic diversity among speakers is required. A session with speakers from one institution is almost always outright rejected.

Presenters that come from different geographical areas lend credibility to the session.

**Proposed Speaker:** John Fanikos, RPh, MBA

**Primary Position**

Director of Pharmacy, Business and Financial Services, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA

**Qualifications:** John is Assistant Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at Northeastern University and Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in addition to the Brigham and Women's Hospital Pharmacy Director of Business and Financial Services. For the past 10 years, he has worked closely with the BWH Venous Thromboembolism Service, and he has authored and co-authored many articles on the complications of anticoagulation therapy.

☺ Attendees want speakers that are practicing (pharmacists, MD's, RN's, CEO's, etc.), are experts on the content, and present effectively.