Background

Many studies have shown the value of clinical pharmacists as members of multidisciplinary teams in a variety of healthcare settings. Little is known about the perceptions of physicians regarding services provided by clinical pharmacy faculty. Clinical pharmacy faculty may have more teaching experience and time to create services compared to hospital-based pharmacists. Alternatively, these faculty must balance hospital responsibilities with university demands. The purpose of this pilot project was to assess the perceptions of outpatient physicians and clinical pharmacy faculty on a variety of pharmacy related services.

Methods

IRB approval was granted from the University of Louisiana at Monroe and Xavier University of Louisiana. An online survey was e-mailed to outpatient clinical pharmacy faculty at both schools of pharmacy in Louisiana, and then forwarded to their physician colleagues. A 5-point Likert scale was used to assess expectations for 23 pharmacy services. Demographic data were collected. Results were analyzed using descriptive statistics and an independent t-test. Internal consistency was measured for each survey by calculating Cronbach’s alpha.

Results

Five physicians and 9 outpatient pharmacists responded to the surveys. The response rate for pharmacy faculty member in the state of Louisiana was 41.9% (18/43 faculty). Three physicians were female and 1 was male; 5 pharmacists were female and 4 were male. All physicians reported working with a clinical pharmacist who was affiliated with a school of pharmacy.

Survey items in the second section of the survey used a 5-point Likert scale from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree) for physicians and pharmacists. This means that they endorsed “Agree” and “Strongly Agree” more on the Likert scale for most items.

As assist in designing drug therapy treatment plans for patients

Comparison of responses to selected questions with the greatest difference between physicians’ and pharmacists’ answers

Conclusions

The study data convey differences in perceptions between outpatient physicians and clinical pharmacy faculty on a variety of pharmacy clinical services. Our study was limited by the low response rate. However, the high internal consistency suggests that these surveys will be adequate for future use. The potential differences in physician perceptions of clinical pharmacist faculty will be further examined through a national survey of clinical pharmacy faculty and their physician colleagues.

If you are a full-time faculty member, please participate in our national survey. Scan here for author contact/survey information and survey links.

References