Willingness of Community Pharmacists to Expand Cognitive Practice

Suheib Abdullah (PharmD Candidate 2019), Christina Seeger (CPH, MLS, AHIP), Joanne Fazio-Gosser (RPh), Chris Alvarado (PharmD), Mathew Garber (PharmD, PhD)

University of the Incarnate Word – Feik School of Pharmacy, San Antonio, Texas

OBJECTIVES

✓ Assess quantity of community locations that are offering additional services.
✓ Assess respondents’ willingness (if able) to perform additional services.
✓ Assess perceived barriers to entry into community collaborative practice agreements.

RATIONALE & SIGNIFICANCE

Community pharmacists have historically been paid primarily for drug dispensing services provided to patients. However, significant legislative changes within the United States, over the past two decades, have occurred increasingly with a focus on pharmacist-provided patient-care services within a community pharmacy practice.

METHODOLOGY

The design of the methodology focuses on mitigating elements of bias by constructing a concise survey and delivering it in person to potential participants.

Sample:
- Subjects: community pharmacists in Bexar County. One pharmacist per pharmacy.
- The geographic area was divided into 8 sub-county sectors (due to data on morbidity and mortality distribution following social and economic patterns within Bexar County).
- Within each sector, the target ratio of chain to independent was 1:1.

Survey Instrument:
- A one-page self-administered questionnaire was offered in person to all potential participants. It consisted of demographic questions, 2 Likert scales (one of pharmacist’s opinion regarding pharmacy services in general, and the other regarding comfort level in using collaborative practice), and 1 ranking scale (potential barriers regarding use of collaborative practice agreements within a community setting).

Number of pharmacies that agreed to participate = 63
Number of pharmacies that deferred participation = 5

Response rate = \( \frac{63}{68} = 96.9\% \)

RESULTS

DEMOGRAPHICS

Pharmacies involved in study, by type

Pharmacies involved in study, by geographic sub-sector

RESULTS

Pharmacies involved in study, by geographic sub-sector

Percentage of surveyed pharmacies that currently provide service(s).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent</th>
<th>Public-Owned Chain</th>
<th>Private-Owned Chain</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>67%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pharmacies’ opinions regarding Collaborative Practice Agreement (CPA) with a physician:

I am qualified to collaborate with a CPA to provide services that improve patient outcomes.

96% Agree
94% Agree

Pharmacies’ response when asked to rank potential barriers if a CPA with a physician were implemented at their pharmacy.

EDUCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Most likely to be a barrier

PERSONAL LIABILITY

LEAST LIKELY to be a barrier

CONCLUSIONS

- Community pharmacists, within Bexar County, are willing to participate in additional professional duties and Collaborative Practice Agreements.
- Better understanding by pharmacy leadership of the willingness and barriers perceived by community pharmacists may enable leadership to mitigate these concerns and allow the profession a stronger chance of successfully enacting additional professional duties.
- The basis of this methodology as well as the results may provide a platform for further research with a broader scope.

REFERENCES


LIMITATIONS

- Limited sample size.
- Percentage of pharmacies that took paper survey (94%) vs electronic survey (6%).
- Time-frame of surveys taken: about 4-month window (6/16/17 to 10/2/17)
- Availability of surveyor (afternoons or evening) may have been more in line with schedules of part-time pharmacists versus full-time pharmacists (usually work morning shift).