



Willingness of Community Pharmacists to Expand Cognitive Practice

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FEIK SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

Suheib Abdullah (PharmD Candidate 2019), Christina Seeger (CPH, M.L.S., 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 respondent's 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 represents one 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 County¹).
- 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 = 2

$$\text{Response rate} = \frac{63}{65} = 96.9\%$$

RESULTS

DEMOGRAPHICS



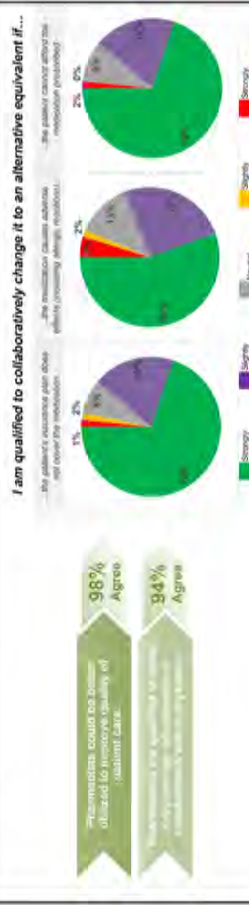
Percentage of surveyed pharmacies that currently provide service(s).

Independent	Public-Owned Chain	Private-Owned Chain	TOTAL
62%	86%	100%	70%
81%	93%	100%	89%
14%	43%	54%	56%
38%	71%	54%	87%

Percentages of pharmacies that agreed when asked "if able, I would provide the following service(s) at my pharmacy".

Independent	Public-Owned Chain	Private-Owned Chain	TOTAL
61%	80%	100%	70%
86%	86%	100%	89%
52%	62%	54%	56%
70%	85%	85%	70%
80%	86%	100%	87%

Pharmacists' opinions regarding Collaborative Practice Agreement (CPA) with a physician.



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



Figure 1. Pharmacist-Provided Cognitive Services permitted by Texas Law (as of 11/5/2018).

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 (6/18/17 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).

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

1. The Health Collaborative. (2016). 2016 Bexar County Community Health Needs Assessment Report. San Antonio, TX: The Health Collaborative.
2. The Texas State Board of Pharmacy. Pharmacy Laws & Rules. <https://www.pharmacy.texas.gov/rules/> Accessed January 15, 2018.