

# Advancing the Practice of Community Pharmacy



### COMPLETED GRANT SYNOPSIS

## **Clinical Community Pharmacist Protocol**

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### **Objectives**

We proposed to design and execute a collaboration between a pharmacy association, academia, community and clinic based pharmacies in Washington State to create a pharmacist-prescribed class of drugs through collaborative practice agreements that create a Clinical Community Pharmacist (CCP) Formulary. We will establish the criteria for using a formulary of medications for pharmacist prescribing in acute care. We further propose to train a cadre of pharmacists that will have access to a drug formulary, to collect data in order to estimate the costs and benefits of this program, and to assess patient satisfaction. Finally, we plan to create a web-based platform that will allow data collection and tracking that could be replicated for future use in other States.

The project changed direction based on the activities in our state. A full-scale study as proposed above became untenable due to another similar grant initiated with chain partners, and the few number of independent pharmacies that were ready to undertake the service during the proposed time. The objectives shifted to:

- characterize community pharmacist providing acute care through collaborative practice agreements, and
- capture best practices and lessons learned from sites providing clinical community pharmacist services, and
- educate pharmacies about clinical community pharmacist services.

Interview pharmacists providing CCP to ascertain their lessons learned, tips, and
patient population
<ul> <li>What services are most requested by CCP</li> <li>Documentation of tips for a successful initiation of the service</li> </ul>
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#### Results

- The most commonly requested CCP interventions is treatment of urinary tract infections and refill authorizations.
- Pharmacists have found the service easier to integrate into workflow than anticipated.
- The fundamentals training helps to prepare pharmacists for undertaking a clinical community
  pharmacist service and prescribing treatment in general. The clinical modules can be taken al a
  carte, or in total, and prepare the pharmacist for patient care and treating specific ailments and
  considerations before refilling medications. The clinical modules are in written format so they
  can serve as a reference for the prescribing pharmacist.
- The toolkit that is regularly updated contains screening and documentation forms, collaborative practice agreements and patient handouts in editable format for the pharmacist.
- Reviewing the program development, training content and toolkit helps pharmacists plan for initiating the service.

- The patients are bimodal underinsured or economically challenged, or more affluent and willing to pay for convenience. In both populations paying cash for the service was feasible.
- The CCP service was so well received by patients and pharmacists many elements were adopted into the scope of a pharmacist in Idaho State.

#### Conclusion

The Clinical Community Pharmacist Service is a viable service for community pharmacists to initiate. The trainings prepare the pharmacist from a service and clinical perspective to be a clinical community pharmacist. The CCP service is appreciated by patients for its convenience and low cost. Refill authorizations help to streamline workflow in pharmacies and improve patient satisfaction and care. The refill authorizations are frequently performed by community pharmacists. Additionally, treatment of urinary tract infections is the most common ailment treated by the clinical community pharmacist. The success of the service was further evidenced by Idaho's adoption of many elements of the service into the scope of a pharmacist. The grant support from the Community Pharmacy Foundation permitted expanded communication about this innovative service.