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COMMUNITY PHARMACY FOUNDATION
COMPLETED GRANT SYNOPSIS

Pharmacists for Patient Safety

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Objectives

- 1) Implement an accelerated model for safety problem identification and solution sharing amongst pharmacists who practice in the state of Nebraska.
- 2) Study its effectiveness in reducing harm and injury related to medication use safety to patients served by pharmacists within their local communities.

Methods

Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharmacist participants were identified through prior research and communication of the project through state meetings and statewide newsletters. • Patient safety reports were analyzed by a team of patient safety experts, with information about the problem summarized in a one-page report that included strategies for addressing the problem and preventing future occurrences based on patient safety science. • Semi-structured interviews were conducted with participating pharmacists to assess their overall experience with the patient safety event reporting website and impact of their participation on patient safety in the pharmacy.
Study endpoints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of a patient safety event reporting website that analyzes patient safety problems and provides timely feedback to a network of pharmacists, including strategies to address the patient safety problem and prevent it from happening again in the future. • Identification of barriers to use of a patient safety event reporting website and barriers to implementation of disseminated patient safety strategies. • Assessment of the impact on participation in the project on patient safety in the pharmacy.

Results

- Thirty-eight pharmacists/pharmacies are participating in the project.
- Participants have submitted 9 patient safety event reports, that illustrate all members of the pharmacy are involved in errors, and that problems often stem from inaccurate information, including wrong medication, formulation, directions, and quantity.
- Barriers to using the website are limited time and high workload, making it difficult to integrate patient safety reporting into the pharmacy workflow.
- Pharmacists valued learning about safety problems that others were facing in practice. The patient safety reports provided pharmacists with an increased awareness of patient safety problems, and allowed them to address these problems proactively with all members of the pharmacy.

Conclusion

Pharmacists are interested in participating in a patient safety event reporting system, value the information shared by their peers, and note the benefits of enhanced awareness of patient safety problems and potential solutions that can be incorporated into their practice. However, issues of workload and workflow still inhibit both optimal use of such a system and integration of safety strategies in practice. These issues will need to be addressed in order to fully realize the potential of a patient safety event reporting system for pharmacists.

For further information and/or materials on this grant, please visit www.CommunityPharmacyFoundation.org and submit your inquiry through **Contact_Us**.