

Community Pharmacists' Beliefs on a Pilot Study to Improve HPV Vaccination Rates on University Campuses

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Background

- Human Papillomavirus, or HPV, is a known cause of certain cancers and diseases in both men and women
- Low HPV vaccination rates among young adults is a common trend among previously conducted studies
- HPV vaccination rates across Oklahoma for those receiving at least an initial dose are 10.1% of college age males and 41.6% of college age females
- Pharmacists can play a large role in HPV awareness and the improvement of vaccination rates because of their training and ease of access
- Community pharmacy enhanced services network, or CPESN®, is a clinically integrated network of pharmacies that deliver enhanced services beyond the dispensing of medications that improve patient outcomes
- Oklahoma community pharmacies in an enhanced services network have created a pilot initiative to reach patients on college campuses to improve HPV vaccination rates using a value-based model

Methods

- Community pharmacists and technicians in an enhanced services network with active Oklahoma licenses were recruited for focus group sessions to gather salient, subjective norm, and control beliefs about improving HPV vaccination rates on university campuses
- Focus groups were conducted utilizing video technology for logistics and efficiency
- The Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) was used as a model to create a semi-structured discussion guide to direct focus group sessions
- Before focus group sessions, participants were asked to fill out a demographic questionnaire
- Focus groups were lead by an experienced moderator while another researcher acted as note-taker
- Thematic analysis was performed by two researchers
- Upon transcript review, analysts agreed on common themes, differences, and saturation of data gathered

Results

- Two focus groups were conducted with a total of seven participants: five pharmacists and two technicians
- Themes were identified and associated with the following TPB factor constructs: positive and negative salient beliefs, positive and negative subjective norm beliefs, and positive and negative control beliefs
- Some positive salient beliefs included opportunity for future vaccinations and an increase in awareness of the HPV vaccine
- Some negative beliefs included time to conduct vaccination clinics and managing vaccine inventory
- Positive subjective norms included an increase in patient understanding and awareness
- A shared concern among the group was patient follow-up for subsequent vaccinations in the series
- Participants believed a positive control in provision of the HPV vaccination was increased patient access

Focus Group Participants

	Pharmacist (n=5)	Technician (n=2)
Demographics n (%)		
Female	4 (80%)	1 (50%)
Race		
White	4 (80%)	
Asian American	1 (20%)	
Hispanic or Latino		2 (100%)
Characteristics n (%)		
Independent Pharmacy	5 (100%)	2 (100%)
Pharmacist Experience		
Between 5 to 20 years	4 (80%)	
More than 20 years	1 (20%)	
Provides the HPV Vaccination Prior to Focus Group	5 (100%)	1 (50%)

Themes



Discussion

- Overall, community pharmacists have indicated that they feel strongly positive about offering the HPV vaccine
- The main themes identified from our participants are access, understanding, and awareness

Limitations

- High performing pharmacies in a CPESN® network in close proximity to universities were included in the study
- Additional focus groups to include more participants would have been optimal

References

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2. Ajzen, Icek. "The Theory of Planned Behavior." *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, vol. 50, no. 2, Dec. 1991, pp. 179–211., doi:10.1016/0749-5978(91)90020-t.

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