



COMPLETED GRANT SYNOPSIS

Enhancing Mental Health Care through Community Pharmacist's Administration of Long-Acting Injectable Antipsychotics (LAIA)

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Objectives	
<p>Aim 1: To develop a training program for community pharmacists introducing them to the value of Long-Acting Injectable Antipsychotics (LAIAs), best practices in the administration of LAIAs, and the setting up of collaborative practice agreements (CPAs) with prescribers for pharmacists to administer the LAIAs.</p> <p>Aim 2: To determine the acceptability and feasibility of LAIA administration and management by community pharmacists.</p>	
Methods	
Design	<p>Project design involved mixed methods across the two aims of the study. Aim 1 of the study was achieved through qualitative research methods to inform the development and evaluation of the LAIA training program. Aim 2 of the study was achieved through quantitative and qualitative methods involving post injection patient surveys, review of LAIA adherence data, and interviews of pharmacists about administration of LAIAs in their pharmacy setting.</p>
Study endpoints	<p>Aim 1: Development and implementation of pharmacist LAIA administration training program and pharmacist feedback about training program.</p> <p>Aim 2: Patient outcomes: Number of injections given by trained pharmacists, LAIA adherence during study, pharmacist feedback about feasibility of giving LAIAs in their pharmacy, and patient satisfaction and acceptance of LAIA injection by pharmacists.</p>
Results	
<p>Aim 1: Across the study period, 43 pharmacists have been trained in LAIA injections over 4 separate half-day LAIA training workshops. Five CPAs were signed by prescribers across sites. The training program involve pre-work prior to the workshop focused on reviewing the diagnosis and treatment of schizophrenia and bipolar disorders. Workshop trainings included a brief review of LAIAs and their use, collaborative practice agreements/protocols, what to document prior to injection, how to give injections, and monitor post injection. Pharmacists reported training helped them prepare for injections and were satisfied with their training experience. They would have liked more initial hands-on support at the site when setting up the service.</p> <p>Aim 2: Across 5 sites, there have been approximately 930 injections administered since the beginning of the training to October 2021. Across all these injections, 30 of them were associated with a gap of greater than 3 days. Pharmacist provided positive findings that the LAIA administrative service was feasible and successful, documentation form was well received, and most injections took on average 20-25 minutes in length. Fifteen patients completed surveys about injection experiences. A majority of respondents reported high satisfaction with comfort and confidence in pharmacist LAIA administrations and being extremely likely to recommend pharmacist LAIA administration.</p>	
Conclusion	
<p>The present study found that community pharmacists can be successfully trained in LAIA administration. Further, it appears that the development and implementation of pharmacist administration is feasible in community settings and well received by patients and pharmacists. LAIA administration facilitated good adherence across the administration of over 900 injections at multiple sites. More scientific research is needed to confirm the generalizability of findings across other settings including chain pharmacies, and other geographic locations outside of Connecticut.</p>	

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