



COMPLETED GRANT SYNOPSIS

Title: Facilitating community pharmacists' opioid education and safety communication

Authors: Tanvee Thakur, MS, BPharm; Betty Chewing, PhD, FAPhA
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Objectives

1. Refine and revise an opioid safety handout as a tool to facilitate opioid risks and safety communications in community pharmacies.
2. Assess feasibility and acceptability of this tool among a statewide sample of community pharmacists.
3. Evaluate integration of this handout in opioid consults in community pharmacies.

Methods

Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This study used a multi-phase participatory mixed methods design. It was conducted in three separate phases. • Phase one involved conducting interviews with 8 community pharmacists to refine the handout tool • Phase two involved a short survey of 140state-wide community pharmacists to assess acceptability and feasibility of using the handout; and • Phase three involved rapid evaluation of this refined handout in 56 patient consults at two rural and one urban community pharmacy site in WI.
Study endpoints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final handout to be disseminated to community pharmacists based on revisions from interviews and surveys • Change in counseling, confidence, and satisfaction of participating pharmacists at two sites

Results

- Pharmacists were willing to use this handout to initiate conversations and lead discussions about opioid risks and safety with patients
- Pharmacists who were already educating patients on safe storage and disposal of opioids and those with more years of practice experience were more willing to integrate this handout into the consults
- Showing the handout to patients and integrating it into the consult was viewed as more useful than simply using it as a guide ($r=0.94$, adj. $R^2=0.29$, $p=5.45e-0.5$).
- Pharmacist satisfaction with their patient education increased if opioid risks and safety topics were discussed ($R=0.7$, adj $R^2=0.32$, $p=0.00015$) after integrating the handout

Conclusion

The participatory approach of involving community pharmacists in designing the handout and assessing the feasibility of its use in daily practice helped the research team design and validate an effective resource. This handout will be accompanied by tips to effectively use the handout based on rapid testing results. This will provide the pharmacy community with a unique toolkit to help facilitate opioid risks and safety communication with patients when dispensing an opioid medication.

Manuscripts

- The first manuscript will cover the first two objectives of this grant. It focuses on refining the handout and testing its feasibility in a statewide sample of pharmacists using participatory approach.
- The second manuscript will cover the third objective of this grant. It focuses on field observations and pharmacists' experiences of using the handout in actual patient consultations.