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Advanced Diabetes Training for the Community Pharmacist

- Objectives**
- Identify the current role of the community pharmacist in the care of patients with diabetes
 - Characterize the prevalence of community pharmacists who hold advanced diabetes credentials (BC-ADM or CDE®)
 - Explain the importance of credentialed diabetes educators in the community pharmacy setting

Role of the Community Pharmacist

Role of the Pharmacist

- Community pharmacists are highly accessible health care professionals
- Positive outcomes are well established for pharmacist-managed DSME/T programs
- Some accredited/recognized DSME/T programs already exist in community pharmacies

Role of the Pharmacist

- Diabetes educators have a variety of interactions with community pharmacists
- Diabetes educators do not identify community pharmacists as qualified resources for diabetes self-management education and training (DSME/T)

Characterizing the Prevalence of
Community Pharmacists with Advanced
Diabetes Credentials

Background

- Pharmacists are well-positioned in the community to provide education to patients
- Research is lacking that identifies the perceived benefits and barriers inhibiting community pharmacists from obtaining advanced diabetes credentials

Background

- Research study conducted in a population of community pharmacists throughout Indiana
- Included the board certification in advanced diabetes management (BC-ADM) and certified diabetes educator (CDE®) credentials

Research Aims

- This study sought to:
 - Determine the percentage of community pharmacists in Indiana with advanced diabetes credentials
 - Identify the perceived benefits and barriers pharmacists feel towards obtaining advanced diabetes credentials
 - Assess the intent and interest in pursuing advanced diabetes credentials in the future

Study Design

- Cross-sectional, statewide telephone survey of community pharmacists in Indiana conducted between November 2014 and March 2015
- Questions regarding demographics, current credentials held, and common diabetes-related counseling topics were asked to all respondents

Study Design

- Additional survey items focused on
 - Identifying pharmacists who currently hold advanced diabetes credentials
 - Assessing interest in obtaining advanced diabetes credentials in the future
 - Determining what would help pharmacists obtain advanced diabetes credentials

Study Design

- Also sought to determine pharmacists' perceptions of the benefits and barriers to obtaining advanced diabetes credentials

Benefits

- Respect
- Bonus/raise
- Promotion
- Requirement
- Stronger impact on patient care
- Increase knowledge
- Personal satisfaction

Barriers

- Time
- Expenses
- Don't know how to go about it
- Insufficient patient contact
- Employer does not value
- Do not need credentials

Study Design

- Focus group assessed:
 - Content validity
 - Readability
 - Comprehension
 - Administration time

Study Design

- Survey divided into three sections:
 - Personal and professional demographics
 - Current credentials
 - Perceptions of diabetes credentials
- Dichotomous, Likert response scale, and open-ended questions
- Six research assistants administered surveys

Study Design

- Calls were conducted between the hours of 7 am to 10 pm during common hours of operation of community pharmacies
- Maximum of five telephone calls were attempted for each pharmacy
- Survey administration took approximately 4-6 minutes

Analyses

- Fisher's exact tests
- Chi-square tests
- Student's t-tests
- Medians and inter-quartile-ranges
- Descriptive statistics

Results

- 907/1024 responded to the survey (88.5%)

9/907 participants (<1%) held advanced diabetes credentials

- 6/907 (<1%) held expired credentials
- 29/907 (3.2%) reported having concrete plans to obtain the CDE® credential

Results

- 50% of pharmacists agreed that advanced diabetes credentials were important for all community pharmacists
- 45% of all pharmacists surveyed did not feel advanced diabetes credentials were necessary for delivering patient care services

Results

- Perceived benefits of diabetes credentials included
 - More strongly impact patient care (46.6%)
 - Increased diabetes knowledge (43.4%)
 - No benefit (9.5%)

Results

- Perceived barriers to diabetes credentials
 - Insufficient time to prepare and qualify for advanced diabetes credentials (70.5%)
 - Expenses associated with advanced diabetes credentials (13.3%)
 - Do not know how to obtain advanced diabetes credentials (10.6%)

Results

- Most common counseling topics
 - Administration of medications
 - Glucometer use
 - Lifestyle modifications (diet/physical activity)

The importance of credentialed diabetes educators in the community pharmacy setting

As community pharmacies expand patient care services, it is becoming increasingly important for community pharmacists to provide chronic disease education and management, especially to individuals with type 2 diabetes

Diabetes educators should have an awareness of the opportunities of some of the diabetes services offered through community pharmacies

Conclusions

- This study found
 - (1) Less than 1% of Indiana community pharmacists surveyed hold the CDE® or BC-ADM credentials
 - (2) Community pharmacists believe that advanced diabetes credentials allow for a stronger impact on patient care and increase diabetes knowledge
 - (3) Major barriers to obtaining advanced diabetes credentials are limited time and money

Licensure

- 17% of respondents reported hearing of the diabetes educator licensure option in Indiana
- 66% would consider pursuing or would pursue this option when it becomes available

Future Directions

- Nationwide survey of community pharmacists with advanced diabetes credentials
- Present and publish findings

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