Title: Assessment of primary care practice readiness for establishing clinical pharmacy services

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Purpose and Background: A number of studies have supported pharmacist involvement in primary care clinics by contributing to innovative, interdisciplinary patient care models. Many barriers exist for establishing pharmacist presence in an outpatient clinic making successful implementation difficult. Various publications such as the American College of Clinical Pharmacy’s White Paper, “Developing a Business-Practice Model for Pharmacy Services in Ambulatory Settings” support considering a number of different factors before implementing the service. However, nothing has been quantified concerning which factors are deemed most important to have before establishing pharmacy services.

Research Objective: The purpose of this project is to determine which traits are felt to be important in assessing whether or not a primary care clinic is ready for a clinical pharmacist. The ultimate goal is to create a toolkit for facilities to use in assessing pharmacist services readiness.

Project Methods: A focus group and survey design were used to qualitatively evaluate the factors that are thought contribute to practice-site readiness for pharmacist-led services in the outpatient setting. The subject population included ambulatory care pharmacists from various clinic settings. All participants were associated with an ambulatory clinic that has established clinical pharmacy services. The focus group cohort included pharmacists practicing around Western North Carolina, whereas the survey participants included leaders in ambulatory care pharmacy from across the nation.

First, a local focus group was formed to brainstorm factors thought to be important to consider before approaching a practice to develop ambulatory care pharmacy services. These initial thoughts were used to form practice readiness statements which were included in a series of questionnaires. The Delphi method was used as a group communication process to achieve a convergence of opinion on the practice readiness statements. The experts answered questionnaires in several rounds and after each round, study authors adjusted the statements based on an anonymized summary of the experts' answers. Statements were considered to have reached consensus when 80% of the group agreed on the statement. This study was approved by the local Institutional Review Board.

Results

Conclusion