Abstract Title: Exploring Community Pharmacists’ Perceptions on Providing Influenza and Streptococcus Pharyngitis Testing Within a Large National Supermarket Chain Pharmacy

Authors: Dulaney K, Hohmeier K, Fisher C, Wasson M, Cardosi L

Practice Site: University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy/Kroger Pharmacy-Memphis

Background: Influenza and streptococcal pharyngitis are common illnesses that affect millions of people annually. Pharmacists are in an ideal setting to actively screen and recommend appropriate treatment for both infections. In addition to increasing patient access to care, point-of-care testing (POCT) in pharmacies has shown to expand pharmacists’ scope of practice. There have been studies looking pharmacist perceptions regarding HIV POCT in the community setting but little is known about pharmacist perceptions regarding influenza and streptococcal pharyngitis POCT.

Objectives: The primary objective is to assess pharmacists’ perceptions regarding point-of-care testing and treatment for influenza and streptococcus pharyngitis in a community pharmacy setting.

Methodology: An anonymous electronic Likert-type scale questionnaire was sent to pharmacists in a division of a large national supermarket chain pharmacy in West Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas. This survey was emailed using Qualtrics Survey Software (Qualtrics, Provo, UT) and administered between November 28th, 2016, and December 31st, 2016. It included questions that explored pharmacists’ willingness to perform influenza and streptococcus pharyngitis POCT as well as recommending and providing appropriate treatment. The survey also collected demographic information including age, education, number of years practicing pharmacy, and number of years practicing at current site. The survey was reviewed by a convenience sample of pharmacists in the large national supermarket chain and revised based on their feedback. Descriptive statistics were used to evaluate quantitative participant responses.

Results: The electronic survey was distributed to 379 pharmacists and a total of 157 responded. The response rate for the survey was 39% (146 out of 379). This study found 37% (54 of 146) strongly agreed to perform POCT in a community pharmacy setting and 41.9% (61 of 146) strongly agreed to recommend appropriate treatment for influenza and streptococcal pharyngitis. Secondarily, the majority of participants either strongly agreed (26.7%) or agreed (52.1%) they possessed the clinical knowledge to treat these infections. Additionally, 26.7% strongly agreed and 42.5% agreed their staff could be trained to assist with these services. Finally, 69.2% either strongly agreed or agreed there were barriers to implementing this service in their pharmacy.

Conclusion: This survey provided insight into pharmacists’ perceptions of providing influenza and streptococcal pharyngitis POCT in their pharmacy and confirmed their willingness to provide treatment.