Title: Pharmacy Student Involvement in a Transition of Care Program

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Purpose/Background: A regional medical center implemented a Community Paramedic Program (CPP) in January 2015 to improve the transition of care and reduce hospital readmissions for enrolled patients discharged with heart failure, pneumonia, or COPD. Community paramedics conduct an initial home visit within 48 hours after discharge and follow-up as often as three times per week for the next 30 days. Fourth-year pharmacy students on an advanced pharmacy practice experience assisted community paramedics with home visits.

Research Objective: The aim of this project was to establish a standard process to capture and describe services provided to CPP patients by pharmacy students.

Methodology: This project was conducted from November 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 and approved as a quality improvement project by the IRB. Before home visits, the study investigator oriented students to the CPP and assessed patient interview skills through role-playing and a patient scenario. A standardized form was created for students to record drug-related problems identified and patient education provided during the medication reconciliation interview. The primary outcome describes the types of drug-related problems identified and education provided to patients. Secondary outcomes describe the average number of interventions and time spent to complete a patient interview by students as compared to the standard of care where a pharmacist electronically reviews medications, and trends in patients readmitted within 30 days following discharge.

Results:

Conclusion: