

Title: Examining Outpatient Pharmacist and Pharmacy Technician Perceptions on the Care of Patients with Substance Use Disorder

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Abstract Type: Contributed Research Paper (Report in Progress)

Category: Pharmacy Resident, APPM

Research Area: Practice-based Pharmacy

Topic Area: Substance Use Disorder, Opioid Use Disorder

Background/Objectives:

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians across the country are involved in harm-reduction strategies such as clean syringe programs and naloxone dispensing. When it comes to education on the care of patients with substance use disorder, however, studies show that most pharmacists have received two hours or less of education on the management of these patients. While there are a small number of studies measuring pharmacists' perceptions on substance use disorders in North Carolina, little is known about the pharmacy technician's perspective. Of the few studies that have been conducted, only attitudes and perceptions on providing naloxone and syringe sales have been considered. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are one of the first healthcare professionals these patients may interact with when picking up their prescription. Therefore, it is essential that both pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are not only educated, but aware of the stigma that can come along with their treatment. The objective of this study is to evaluate attitudes and perspectives of pharmacists' and pharmacy technicians towards patients with substance use disorder, understanding of behaviors for patients with substance use disorder, and knowledge of buprenorphine products' place in therapy for substance use disorder.

Methods:

This study will be conducted as a cross-sectional survey through an Internet-based questionnaire platform, Qualtrics. Using the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy's database, a link to the questionnaire will be e-mailed to all actively licensed pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Those included in the survey will be actively licensed, outpatient pharmacists and pharmacy technicians registered with the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians with invalid e-mail addresses or who are not practicing in an outpatient setting will be excluded from the survey. Survey responses will be excluded if the participant does not complete the survey in its entirety. The 35-item questionnaire will include a variety of closed-ended, Likert scale and open-response questions. The survey content includes participant demographics, attitudes and perspectives on substance use disorder and knowledge of substance use disorder. To improve survey response, participants will have the option to enroll in a drawing to win 1 of 10 \$50 gift cards. Winners will be chosen at random with the use of a random number generator.

Results:

Institutional Review Board approval is anticipated in December 2021. Survey will be distributed in February 2022. Data will be analyzed in March-April 2022.

Conclusions:

The goal of this study is to identify North Carolina outpatient pharmacists' and technicians' attitudes, perceptions, and knowledge on the care for patients with substance use disorder. The information gained in this survey may help identify areas for improvement and education of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in outpatient settings.