

Assessment on the Effects of Retail Pharmacy Dispensing of GLP-1 Medication due to Increased Demand, Shortages, and Insurance Coverage.

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Background

- Increased popularity of GLP-1s, such as Ozempic and Mounjaro, has had an impact on accessibility and affordability to patients requiring treatment.
- May result in unsafe patient practice.
- Patients may seek alternative to treatment for TD2M and/or weight loss in the form of non-FDA approved compounded GLP-1s, and inappropriate titration of medication.

Objectives

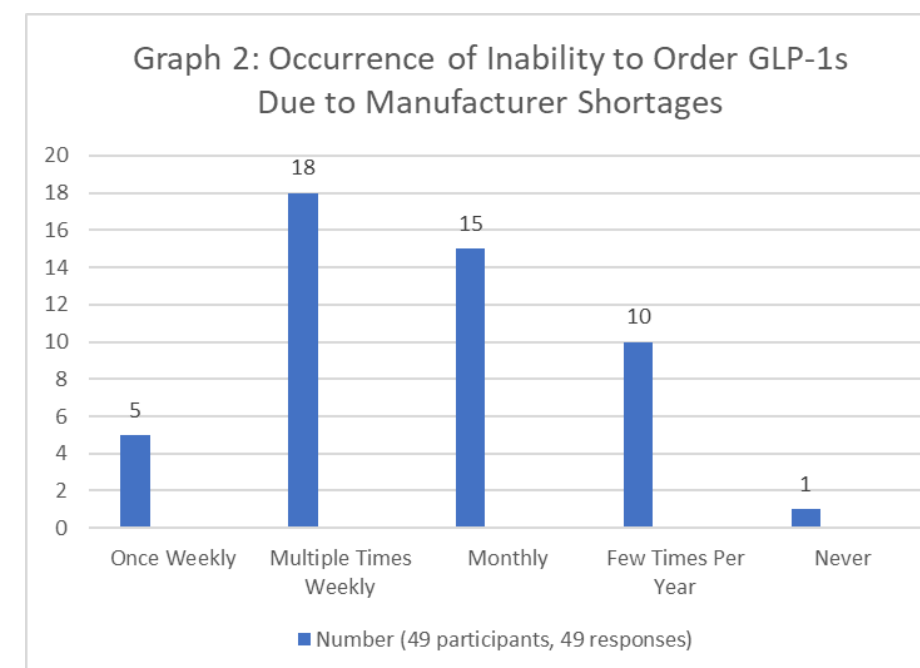
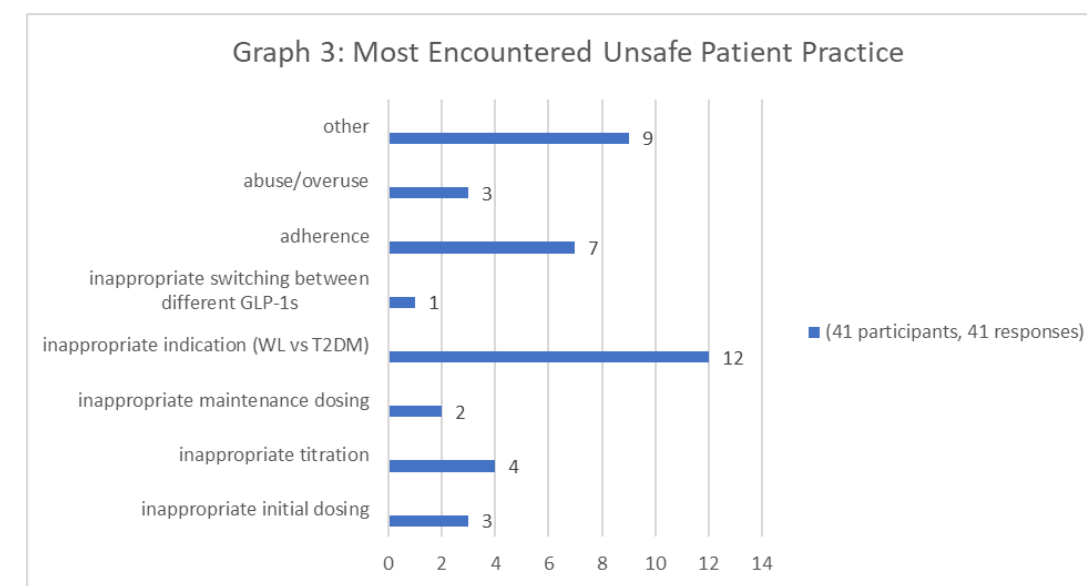
- Gauging the comfort level of retail pharmacists dealing with complications due to issues with drug shortages of GLP-1s and identifying specific factors that impact patient safety.

Methods

- Anonymous survey sent via social media, e-mail, and text
- Targeted demographic of pharmacists working in retail locations regularly dispensing GLP-1 agonists.
- Questions included how often participants have issues ordering from wholesalers, most commonly seen unsafe patient practices, and what specific factors have negative impact on patients.

Results

- 82 participants total (54 included in final analysis, due to exclusion criteria)
 - 40 fully completed survey
- 33 of 54 respondents (61.1%) worked at a large corporate chain location (e.g. CVS Pharmacy, Walgreens, and Wal-Mart).
- 18 of 49 responses of participants indicated they have issues ordering GLP-1s multiple times weekly ((37%), followed by monthly (15 of 49 responses [31%]) and a few times per year (10 of 49 responses [20%]).
- 78% (33 of 42 responses) of participants indicated either they agree (strongly or somewhat) that increased popularity of GLP-1s has an impact on unsafe patient practice.
- Inappropriate indication of use, such as using Ozempic for the treatment of weight loss without type 2 diabetes mellitus, rather than Wegovy, the approved weight loss formulation of semaglutide (12 of 41 responses [29%]) was the most commonly observed unsafe patient practice.



Factor	Strongly Agree		Somewhat Agree		Neutral		Somewhat Disagree		Strongly Disagree		Total
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Increased Popularity	11	26%	22	52%	4	10%	3	7%	2	5%	42
Availability of Compounded GLP-1s	22	51%	12	28%	4	9%	3	7%	2	5%	43
Supply Chain Distributions	11	28%	18	45%	7	18%	2	5%	2	5%	40
Insurance Coverage	15	37%	11	27%	9	22%	4	10%	2	5%	41
Cost	14	34%	17	41%	6	15%	3	7%	1	2%	41

Conclusion

- Addressing the potential for unsafe patient practice due to the lack of availability is to be prioritized as healthcare providers.
- The rise of availability of non-FDA approved forms of these drugs has caused the risk of unsafe patient practices to rise, as well. Pharmacists are the last line between the patient receiving their GLP-1 medication and ensuring that they are adherent and safe should always come first.

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