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Title: *An Assessment of Community Pharmacists' Immunization Recommendations*

Abstract

Introduction: Community pharmacists have the opportunity to lead the way in immunization screening, education, and administration as the immunization experts.

Purpose: The purpose of this research was to assess and describe the accuracy of community pharmacists' immunization recommendations.

Methods: An online survey was created with a series of multiple-choice questions aimed at assessing community pharmacists' immunization recommendations. This survey was distributed through email lists and professional contacts.

Outcomes: The outcomes measured included overall percentage of correct responses selected for each participant and the percentage of each answer choice selected for each question.

Results: The entirety of the survey was completed by 33 of the 44 respondents, who had an average overall percentage of correct responses selected of 78% ± 18. The most often missed questions were the pneumonia case, with 52.3% correct, and the diabetes case, with 55.6% correct.

Discussion: Participants most frequently got the pneumonia case incorrect due to the minimum recommended time of five years between two doses of PPSV23. Participants most frequently got the diabetes case incorrect due to the recommendation to provide hepatitis B vaccination to people with diabetes younger than 60 years old. The major limitation to the generalizability of this study was the lack of responses due to a change in ACIP immunization recommendations.

Conclusion: Results indicate that further education is needed to improve community pharmacists' knowledge of the ACIP immunization recommendations.