Deprescribing Education in US Schools of Pharmacy

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Abstract

Introduction: Deprescribing is a tool that can be used to address the growing problem of polypharmacy. Recent studies have indicated lack of education as a common barrier to routine deprescribing. No studies mapping school of pharmacy curricula have been published, though pharmacy students have been surveyed for comfort on the topic.

Research Purpose Statement: This study sought to map if where and how deprescribing is taught in the United States to better guide curriculum development.

Methodology: This was a 21-item survey sent to 142 Deans of Academic Affairs or equivalent at 142 ACPE accredited schools of pharmacy.

Results: The completed response rate indicates that 75% of programs include proactive deprescribing in their curriculum across required and elective courses and experiential learning.

Conclusions: This response is higher than previously reported literature but still indicates appreciable gaps in learning around this emerging topic.