



Evaluation of Patient Perceptions on the Role of a Pharmacist for Diabetes Management in a Rural Community

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

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BACKGROUND

- 11.6% of the U.S. population had a diagnosis of DM in 2021.
- Prevalence of DM was 9-17% higher in rural areas compared to urban.
- Community members visit their pharmacy more frequently than their PCP.
- 14% of the U.S. population was living in rural areas and only 10% of physicians practice in this setting.
- Rural areas recorded having 5.1 PCPs per 10,000 residents.
- There are limited studies assessing what roles/services patients depend on from their community pharmacist for diabetes management.

METHODS

- 65 surveys were distributed to patients with type 1 or type 2 diabetes who filled prescriptions at Nauvoo Pharmacy.
- Background characteristics collected in the survey included age, gender, and type of DM.
- Participants completed a survey about roles/services they utilized from their pharmacist for diabetes management.

RESULTS

Survey Question Results			
Question	Yes	No	Unsure
Did/Do you depend on your pharmacist for help with first placing your Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM; example: Dexcom, FreeStyle Libre, etc.)?	7 (35%)	12 (60%)	1 (5%)
Do you need pharmacist assistance when your Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM; example: Dexcom, FreeStyle Libre, etc.) malfunctions or your CGM falls off?	3 (15%)	17 (85%)	0 (0%)
Did/Do you need pharmacist counseling on how to properly inject your insulin?	3 (15%)	17 (85%)	0 (0%)
Did/Do you need pharmacist counseling on how to properly take your diabetes medication?	4 (20%)	15 (75%)	1 (5%)
Did/Do you need pharmacist assistance with phone applications to help manage your diabetes?	3 (15%)	16 (80%)	1 (5%)
Did/Do you need a pharmacist to help you set up your diabetes meter?	7 (35%)	13 (65%)	0 (0%)
Did/Do you need a pharmacist to counsel you on how to test your blood sugar?	5 (25%)	15 (75%)	0 (0%)
Did/Do you need a pharmacist to help you understand your blood sugar readings?	2 (10%)	18 (90%)	0 (0%)
Did/Do you need a pharmacist to counsel you on the most common symptoms of low blood sugar?	5 (25%)	14 (70%)	1 (5%)
Did/Do you need a pharmacist to counsel you on what to do if you have low blood sugar?	4 (20%)	14 (70%)	2 (10%)
Did/Do you need help from a pharmacist to understand your insurance and co-pay?	9 (45%)	9 (45%)	2 (10%)
Did/Do you need help from a pharmacist to get assistance with your co-pay for your diabetic medication (i.e. coupon cards or free trial cards)?	6 (30%)	13 (65%)	1 (5%)
Did/Do you need a pharmacist's help to change medications for your diabetes?	3 (15%)	15 (75%)	2 (10%)
Did/Do you ask advice from your pharmacist on side effects from your diabetes medication?	9 (45%)	10 (50%)	1 (5%)

- 20 total surveys were evaluated.
- 80% of participants reported having T2DM.
- The top roles/services utilized by patients of Nauvoo Pharmacy were advice on side effects from medications used to treat DM, help understanding insurance and co-pays, help with first placement of CGM, and help setting up a diabetes meter.
- 75% of participants in the study utilized services for the management of their diabetes provided by their pharmacist.

CONCLUSION

- Patients in rural communities living with diabetes depend on and utilize many roles/services from their community pharmacist for the management of their diabetes.

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