

Abstract:

Introduction: Illinois has recently extended the pharmacist's role to include the prescribing and dispensing of hormonal contraceptives effective January 2022. Students may lack confidence in their knowledge in this area. The purpose of this study is to assess the educational impact on student confidence and readiness for prescribing hormonal contraceptive therapy upon graduation, and whether the curriculum adequately prepares them for this after completing women's health education coursework.

Methods: This observational, cross-sectional study (IRB #1386) included a survey of third (P3) and fourth year pharmacy students (P4) at Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville School of Pharmacy (SIUE SOP) from the Class of 2023 and 2022, respectively. The study was divided into Phase I (P4) and Phase II (P3). Phase II consisted of a pre- and post- survey with a simulation activity. The primary outcome focuses on the educational impact of the current pharmacy curriculum on student readiness and confidence levels in prescribing hormonal contraceptives after graduation.

Results: The survey results indicate that 51% (Phase I), 64.5% (Phase II Pre-Survey), and 69.7% (Phase II Post-Survey) of respondents strongly agreed/agreed in their confidence to prescribe hormonal contraceptives gained from the current pharmacy curriculum. On the contrary, 84% (Phase I), 83% (Phase II Pre-Survey), and 82% (Phase II Post-Survey) of respondents strongly agreed/agreed in their confidence to counsel on hormonal contraceptives. Overall, more than 90% of all participants strongly agreed/agreed that a continuing education course and/or simulation activity would increase their confidence to prescribe hormonal contraceptives.

Conclusion: There was an overall increase in confidence to prescribe hormonal contraceptives after completing the simulation activity. These results will be shared with faculty to enhance the SIUE SOP curriculum, while also improving student confidence.