MEDICATION THERAPY MANAGEMENT: Empowering the Patient

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Abstract

Medication Therapy Management provides the community with many benefits. In order to demonstrate the importance, we used pharmacist surveys to convey how often MTM is utilized, pharmacists perspectives on service utilization and challenges, and goals and expectations of the outcomes of MTM services.

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INTRODUCTION
Medication Therapy Management provides the community with many benefits. In order to demonstrate the importance, we used pharmacist surveys to convey how often MTM is utilized, pharmacists perspectives on service utilization and challenges, and goals and expectations of the outcomes of MTM services.

OBJECTIVE
The purpose of this research is to educate and highlight the important perceptions, benefits, and challenges associated with Medication Therapy Management (MTM) services. As well as, identify challenges or negative connotations towards these services.

METHODS/STUDY POPULATION
Information was gathered via online resources such as cms.gov, amcp.org, pqaalliance.org, etc.; evaluating journal articles; and conducting surveys with pharmacists who have first-hand experience. After analyzing such data, we will compile the perception, benefits, and challenges associated with MTM services. The study population includes licensed pharmacists who are practicing community pharmacy in the state of Oklahoma.

SURVEY ITEMS AND DATA
1. Why do you believe pharmacists should implement MTM services?
   - A. Improves patient outcomes (33%)
   - B. Insurance requires me to do it (21%)
   - C. Lowers healthcare utilization costs (14%)
   - D. Enables pharmacists to provide clinical services (32%)

2. How often do you utilize MTM services?
   - A. At least once per day (10%)
   - B. At least once per week (36%)
   - C. A few times per month (12%)
   - D. At least once per month (14%)
   - E. Rarely utilized (21%)

3. Do you provide MTM services for patients other than those required by Medicare?
   - A. Yes (31%)
   - B. No (69%)

4. Which of the following would you say is the most challenging aspect of MTM services?
   - A. Patient disinterest (10%)
   - B. Lack of motivation (14%)
   - C. Time management (31%)
   - D. Communicating efficiently with your patients (36%)
   - E. Meeting requirements (12%)

5. Which goal best defines your primary goal for MTM services?
   - A. Improve collaborations between pharmacists and other healthcare providers (33%)
   - B. Ensure target quality measures are fully met (29%)
   - C. Decrease medication-related problems, such as adverse reactions, medication interactions, and costs (31%)
   - D. Empower patients to have an active role in their medication and healthcare management (31%)

6. How Beneficial do you believe MTM services are for your patients
   - Not Beneficial (2%)
   - Slightly Beneficial (29%)
   - Neutral (10%)
   - Somewhat Beneficial (38%)
   - Very Beneficial (21%)

7. How beneficial do you believe MTM services are for you and other pharmacists?
   - Not beneficial (7%)
   - Slightly Beneficial (31%)
   - Neutral (12%)
   - Somewhat Beneficial (31%)
   - Very Beneficial (19%)

8. How beneficial do you believe MTM services are for other Healthcare Professionals?
   - Not beneficial (7%)
   - Slightly Beneficial (31%)
   - Neutral (14%)
   - Somewhat Beneficial (38%)
   - Very Beneficial (10%)

9. How often are you meeting your MTM goals?
   - Never Meeting Goals (5%)
   - Rarely Meeting Goals (36%)
   - Occasionally Meeting Goals (40%)
   - Frequently Meeting Goals (12%)

10. What level is your understanding on the process, purpose, and outcomes of MTM?
    - No understanding (0%)
    - Slight Understanding (10%)
    - Average Understanding (17%)
    - Good Understanding (40%)
    - Complete Understanding (33%)

CONCLUSIONS
From the results, we can conclude that the majority of those surveyed believe MTM services were somewhat beneficial for patients, pharmacists, and healthcare professionals. Additionally, the majority stated they have a good understanding on the process, purpose, and outcomes of MTM services, as well as frequently meet their goals.

Based on the data gathered, the majority of pharmacists surveyed believe MTM services help to improve patient outcomes and their primary goal is decreasing medication-related adverse reactions, medication interactions, and costs.

However, the most challenging aspect those surveyed expressed relating to MTM services was time management.

Our goal is to utilize this information in educating patients on the importance of medication therapy management and promote a sense of openness between patients and healthcare providers in hopes to further identify health-related issues in patients.

IMPLICATIONS
Illustrate the collected data in a handout to give to pharmacists and patients to identify the positive mindset and challenging aspects regarding MTM services.

Educate pharmacy students on the current working pharmacist's feelings expressed towards MTM services; as well as, initiating problem-solving ideas to overcome challenges in the future.

REFERENCES


Disclosure
Authors of this presentation have nothing to disclose concerning possible financial or personal relationships with commercial companies. There are no authors with a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation.