Evaluating Naloxone Access and Prescribing Requirements in the Opioid Epidemic across the United States

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INTRODUCTION

• Deaths related to opioid overdose has been an increasing problem in the United States
• Deaths related to opioid overdoses can be prevented by the use of naloxone which reverses the effects of opioids
• Approaches to promote naloxone access have been described by federal agencies, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

OBJECTIVES

• The primary objective of this study is to examine naloxone access in community pharmacies for each state
• Secondary objectives include which states require physicians to prescribe naloxone to patients receiving opioids, and layperson access to naloxone

METHODS

Using national and state databases, information was collected and analyzed for each state regarding the following:

• Requirements of concurrently prescribing naloxone with opioid prescriptions
• Naloxone access in community pharmacies
• Layperson access to naloxone without a prescription

RESULTS

• New state laws have expand access to naloxone without a patient-specific prescription
• All community pharmacies have increased access to naloxone through state policies such as
  • Standing orders
  • Protocol orders
  • Pharmacists Prescriptive Authority
  • Collaborative Practice Agreements
• Only 5 states require prescribers to provide a naloxone prescription along with an opioid prescription
• Several states have implemented programs that provide intra-nasal naloxone outside of pharmacies
• The majority of states have passed Good Samaritan Laws

CONCLUSION and FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

• Changing laws have helped make naloxone easier for people to access this life-saving medication by increasing how it can be distributed beyond traditional prescriptions
• Increased access allows individuals at risk, as well as friends and families of those at risk, be prepared in the event of an opioid overdose
• As the removal of barriers are making it easier for individuals to obtain naloxone, it is important that pharmacists are able to help provide risk identification and administration education to the public

REFERENCES


Author Disclosure

Authors of this presentation have nothing to disclose concerning possible financial or personal relationships with commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation.