

Measuring the Impact of Integrating PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residents into Specialty Clinics

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Background

It is well established that integration of a specialty pharmacist into specialty clinics increases access to medication, improves patient adherence, and decreases financial burden on patients.¹ As specialty clinics and the prescribing of specialty medications continues to grow exponentially, it is critical for pharmacy residents to be provided learning opportunities within these settings to educate future pharmacists in this field. Additionally, integrating residents into specialty clinics increases availability of pharmacy services and therefore, can improve patient outcomes as well as increase the number of patients served.^{1,2,3} The University of Louisville Hospital is an academic medical center that currently trains two Post-Graduate Year Two (PGY-2) Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residents annually.

Objectives

To measure the impact of utilizing PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residents on increasing the availability of specialty pharmacy services and provider satisfaction in specialty clinics. Additionally, to evaluate the ability of the learning experience in meeting the residents' educational objectives.

Methods

PGY-2 residents were trained to provide ambulatory care pharmacy services in the Hepatitis C and Multiple Sclerosis Clinics. They then provided those services with peripheral support from a preceptor over a 6-month period. Outcomes collected to determine the impact of PGY-2 residents included hours of clinic coverage provided, number of patients served, number of patients that discontinued treatment, and provider satisfaction with pharmacy services. Provider satisfaction was determined based on a voluntary survey. To demonstrate the meaningfulness of this learning experience, the educational objectives met as defined by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) residency standards will be reported.

Results

Additional hours of pharmacist coverage provided

- Hepatitis C Clinic: 104
- Multiple Sclerosis Clinic: 84

Total number of patients served

- Hepatitis C Clinic: 114
- Multiple Sclerosis Clinic: 102

Number of patients in which therapy was discontinued

- Hepatitis C Clinic: 3
- Multiple Sclerosis Clinic: 2

Average provider satisfaction rating

- Hepatitis C Clinic: 5/5
- Multiple Sclerosis Clinic: 5/5

ASHP Learning Objectives met during the learning experience

- R1.1.3, R1.1.4, R1.1.6, R1.1.7
- R2.1.2
- R3.3.1, R3.3.2

Specialty Pharmacy Services

- Medication Reconciliation
- Medication Education
- Vaccination Review and Administration
- Drug Information Questions
- Prior Authorizations
- Appeals and Peer-to-Peer Reviews
- Side Effect Management
- Adherence Counseling
- Laboratory Review
- Prescription Review

Discussion

These results and observations demonstrate that patients, providers, and PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Residents all benefit from integration of PGY-2 residents into the specialty clinic setting. Through utilization of PGY-2 residents more patients can receive care for unique medical conditions which require individualized treatment plans. Also, residents are provided a meaningful learning experience that allows them to gain experiences that are valuable to their future practice.

References

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