IMPACT OF SPECIALTY PHARMACY INTEGRATION ON TIME TO MEDICATION ACCESS FOR PRESCRIPTION CANNABIDIOL

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Integrated Specialty Pharmacies (ISPs) composed of pharmacists and certified pharmacy technicians (CPhTs) can navigate the cumbersome medication access pathway to assist in patients initiating prescription CBD in a timely manner.

BACKGROUND
- Access to prescription cannabidiol (CBD), an adjunct therapy for uncontrolled seizure disorders, is restricted by insurance requirements which may potentially lead to initiation delays.
- Integrated specialty pharmacies (ISPs) composed of pharmacists and certified pharmacy technicians (CPhTs) can navigate the cumbersome medication access pathway to assist in patients initiating prescription CBD in a timely manner.

STUDY OBJECTIVE
Measure the duration from initial specialty pharmacy patient assessment (when embedded pharmacy team is notified of decision to treat) to prescription CBD access.

METHODS
- Design: Single-center, retrospective cohort study
- Inclusion: All patients prescribed CBD by center’s outpatient neurology clinics between January 2019 – April 2020
- Exclusion: Participation in a prescription CBD clinical trial, Access and fulfillment process not handled by ISP
- Outcomes: Secondary: Interval from initial patient assessment to Bi, BI to insurance approval, approval insurance approval to initial shipment, and FA impact on OOP cost
- Data sources: Electronic health record and specialty pharmacy management system

RESULTS

Table 1. Cohort Demographics (N = 136)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pediatric (N=92)</th>
<th>Adult (N=44)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age, years [median, (IQR)]</td>
<td>10 (5 – 14)</td>
<td>28 (21 – 44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender, female</td>
<td>47 (43)</td>
<td>57 (25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race, white</td>
<td>84 (77)</td>
<td>86 (38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance type</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>73 (67)</td>
<td>32 (14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>20 (18)</td>
<td>23 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>46 (20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TriCare</td>
<td>5 (7)</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height, cm [median, (IQR)]</td>
<td>130 (102 – 147)</td>
<td>164 (153 – 173)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight, kg [median, (IQR)]</td>
<td>29 (17 – 38)</td>
<td>62 (49 – 76)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome</td>
<td>89 (62)</td>
<td>80 (35)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Appendix 1

Figure 1. Integrated Specialty Pharmacy Workflow

Figure 2. Embedded Clinic CPhT Role

- Pre-Prescription CBD Launch
  - Coordinate with clinical staff to discuss and initiate standardized access process
  - Interface with market access representatives to discuss potential obstacles and FA options

- Patient Prescription CBD Initiation
  - Complete pharmacy BI
  - Complete PAs and appeals
  - Evaluate patient OOP cost and obtain FA if needed

- Ongoing Treatment Access and Coordination of Care
  - Ensure timely renewal of PAs
  - Monthly check-in to schedule refill delivery and assess for medication changes and seizure control
  - Maintain and renew patient FA as required

Figure 3. Time From Initial Patient Assessment to Prescription CBD Shipment (N = 136)

Figure 4. Financial Assistance Impact on Initial OOP Cost

- Interval: median (IQR)
  - Approval to shipment: 5 (3-9) days
  - BI to approval: 0 (0-2) days
  - First assessment to BI: 0 (0-0) days

CONCLUSIONS
- The management of a prescription CBD approval pathway by an integrated specialty pharmacy team ensures timely access to therapy
- Certified pharmacy technician ownership of key steps in the prescription CBD approval pathway under pharmacist oversight streamlines access and allows the pharmacist to focus on clinical aspects of patient care

References: 1. Spillman (2020) and citation [please check] Other. Cardenas, CA: Greenleaf Biosciences, Inc. Authors have the following to disclose: concerning potential financial or personal relationships with any commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation: Autumn Zuckerman – Pfizer, Astellas, Novo Nordisk – Pfizer, Astellas.