Survey of Emergency Medicine Pharmacy Education Opportunities for Students and Residents
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Abstract of Proposal

Background: Emergency medicine (EM) clinical pharmacists’ benefits to a healthcare system and an emergency department (ED) have been repeatedly demonstrated since their inception in the late 1970s. Since that time there has been and continues to be considerable growth and development of this specialty to attempt to match the demand for EM pharmacy services.

Literature to support that pharmacy services in the ED improve patient outcomes and decrease medication errors has led to the development of the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Statement on Pharmacy Services to the ED. ASHP supports the expansion of pharmacy education and postgraduate residency training to include an emphasis on emergency care in order to develop an adequate supply of pharmacists who are trained to deliver these essential pharmacy services. It is further stated that every pharmacy department should provide the ED with pharmacy services required to ensure safe and effective patient care. These goals are consistent with the Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative (PPMI) objectives to create a framework for emergency medicine pharmacy services within the PPMI to provide safe, effective, efficient, accountable, and evidence-based care for all hospital and health-system ED patients and to provide this patient care-related service consistently.

Consistent pharmacy services in the ED are a challenge due to the number of EDs in the United States and their inherent around-the-clock function. Although there has been a significant increase in PGY2 EM pharmacy specialty training over the past several years, with now eighteen ASHP accredited PGY2 EM residency programs, this likely does not meet the need for EM-trained pharmacists. Consistent with recommendations from the ASHP Statement to expand pharmacy education and postgraduate residency training to emphasize emergency care, there has been an expansion of emergency care-related pharmacy training and education. However, there is limited information available regarding the extent of this expansion.

Objectives: To determine the prevalence and nature of EM clinical pharmacy training available to pharmacy students and residents. Furthermore this study will identify deficiencies in the current level of training and suggest specific actions to meet the growing need of this clinical specialty. This survey of current education practices is the first step to understand the prevalence and type of training opportunities that focus on emergency care. This is necessary information to understand in order to develop a framework for emergency medicine pharmacy services to meet the goals of the PPMI.

Methods: Survey data will be collected regarding education opportunities available for both pharmacy students and pharmacy practice residents. Surveys will be distributed via e-mail to Department of Pharmacy Practice Chairs at United States Colleges of Pharmacy as well as Pharmacy Residency Directors at identified institutions. A comprehensive list of the aforementioned individuals will be compiled using the American College of Pharmacy Education website and Pharmacy Practice Residency information available from ASHP. Three separate surveys will be used: 1) to capture pharmacy student education information from the Colleges of Pharmacy, 2) to capture pharmacy practice resident education information from Residency Directors at identified institutions, and 3) to capture pharmacy student education information from a representative at these institutions. An information sheet will be attached to the email to address privacy and security protection as well as voluntary nature of the survey. Data gathered will be analyzed using descriptive statistics.