



Drug Shortage Management Toolkit for Pharmacists

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1. Abstract of proposal

Background: Drug shortages have significant economic and clinical implications, which can have a negative impact on patient care. The year 2017 was historic for natural disasters in the United States and territories, resulting in widespread drug manufacturer facility damage, which further challenged health system drug shortages. Panel et al and Ventola identify natural disasters as a contributing factor to drug shortages, and attribute a lack of an advanced warning system as the main cause of problems dealing with drug shortages.^{1,2} In order to preserve continuity of patient care and access to critical drug therapies, there is a need to streamline health system drug shortage management processes to ensure timely response, especially in an environment of increased access issues.

The purpose of this proposed study is to standardize and increase efficiency in the health system management of drug shortages on a national scale.

Objectives: The primary objectives of this study are to quantify use of health-system resources (defined as time spent and drug budget impact) utilized to combat drug shortages and to provide pharmacists additional support through creation of a drug shortage management toolkit.

Methods: The investigators of this study propose to create and disseminate an electronic survey to pharmacy director members of American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). The electronic survey will capture five domains including demographics, the impact of drug shortages, health-system resource utilization (financial impact), patient outcomes (safety and quality), and current drug shortage information tool utilization. The electronic survey will be accessible for one month with two reminder emails to be sent prior to survey final end date. Survey results will be analyzed in an effort to create a drug shortage management toolkit.

Expected Results: A response rate of approximately 30% is predicted based on similar pharmacy practice survey research. Drug shortage management toolkit creation will support systematic and standardized health system approaches in effectively managing drug shortages.

References:

1. Panel, A. E. (2009). ASHP guidelines on managing drug product shortages in hospitals and health systems. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm*, 66, 1399-406.
2. Ventola, C. L. (2011). The drug shortage crisis in the United States: causes, impact, and management strategies. *Pharmacy and Therapeutics*, 36(11), 740.