Evaluating the Effects of a Long Term Care Pharmacist Educator Component in a Family Medicine Residency Program

Colin Beaton[1], Hrishikesh Navare[2], Denis O'Donnell[2], Stuart Murdoch[3]

[1]Faculty of Science, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada; [2]Medical Pharmacies Group Limited, Markham, ON, Canada; [3]Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, Barrie, ON, Canada

A mixed-methods approach was used, combining quantitative results (surveys) and qualitative data (semi-structured interviews)

What we Learned

- The incorporation of a long term care (LTC) / pharmacy half-day component as part of a family medicine residency program had a positive impact on the physicians' experience.
- It has helped to foster a strong working relationship between physicians and pharmacists and an openness to pursuing geriatric and/or LTC medicine further.

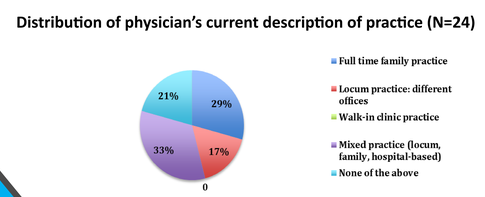
Methods

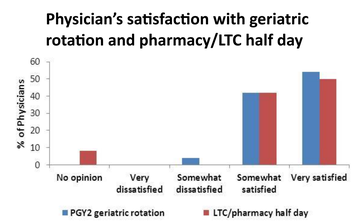
- 11-question anonymous, electronic survey sent to physicians from the residency program (N=60)
- Semi-structured, one-on-one interviews with current residents, the program director, and pharmacist

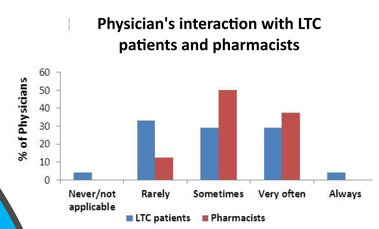
Background

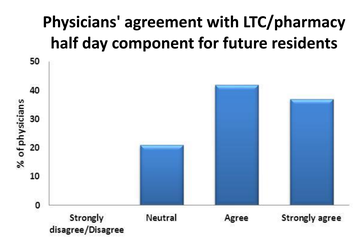
- The frequency of pharmacist educators in family medicine programs in Canada has increased from 14% in 1994 to 25% in 2011[1,2]
- Over the past 5 years, a pharmacist-led half-day practicum in a LTC home and LTC pharmacy has been offered as part of the Barrie Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) Family Medicine Residency program
- The initiative was designed to foster inter-professional collaboration as well as an interest in geriatrics and long term care (LTC) among upcoming physicians

Survey Results









Limitations

- The study was limited with a small sample size of 24 respondents; this could have led to a biased outcome.

Major themes from semi-structured interviews

Reinforcement of a collaborative health care approach

"...it was nice to see...[pharmacists] more involved as part of our care team" (Medical Resident)

"…spending half a day with a specialist in a geriatric pharmacy is going to let them know what that team member does for the care of their patients." (Residency Program Director)

Increased appreciation for pharmacists

"…it taught me a lot about what... [pharmacists] potentially could do, or help... [physicians] with..." (Medical Resident)

Impact on career decisions (pursuing geriatrics, LTC)

"...it made me more inclined to want to work in a nursing home setting." (Medical Resident)

Reduction in medication errors

"you get to see the comments from pharmacists... in terms of reviewing their [patients] medication and I think it was a really reassuring thing that...you do have that great backup." (Medical Resident)

References

1 Jorgenson D. Et al; Pharmacist educators in family medicine residency programs: a qualitative analysis. *BMC Med Educ*, 2012 Aug 11, 12:74

2 Jorgenson D. et al; Pharmacists teaching in family medicine residency programs: National survey. Can *Fam Physician* 57 (9):e341-346