

Helping Patients Manage Multiple Medications, A
Primary Care Physician-Pharmacist Collaboration

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With medications a key part of patient care in primary practice, physicians and pharmacists are likely partners for increasingly working together, especially around patient medication management.

This also fits within the Accountable Care Organization notion and interprofessional practice models.

Objective:

To survey members of the Wisconsin Research Education Network (WREN) and the Pharmacy Practice Enhancement Action Research Link RX (PEARL Rx) to assess possibilities for inter-professional collaboration around patient medication management.

2013: Identify interest in pharmacist services and collaborating generally

2014: Focus on 3 possible pharmacist services for pilot project grant and identify where potential partners are located

The surveys are products of the collaboration between the WREN team and the PEARL team and respondents.

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Methods:

Design: Parallel surveys for physicians and pharmacists

Samples: WREN and PEARL RX research network members

Administration: Email contacts; Qualtrics online survey platform

Survey Topics

2013:

1. Perceptions about a set of patient-care pharmacist activities
MDs: already have RPhs do, would like RPh to do, not interested
RPhs: already provide, would like to provide, not interested
2. Interest in working on a joint project

2014:

1. Focus on 3 patient-care pharmacist activities (Medication "Check-up", Medication Reconciliation, Daily Dose Orchestration)
Interested in exploring collaboration for a pharmacist to provide this service?
Identify specific "partner" to collaborate with? (for follow-up)
2. Pharmacists and patients' Electronic Medical Records (EMRs)
Support patients giving pharmacists authorization to access? Pharmacists help patients access? Refer patients to pharmacists for this help?

Response Summary

PEARL RX (RPhs):

2013: A total of 41 usable responses from 59 contacted (69%)

2014: A total of 21 usable responses from 56 contacted (37%)

WREN (MDs):

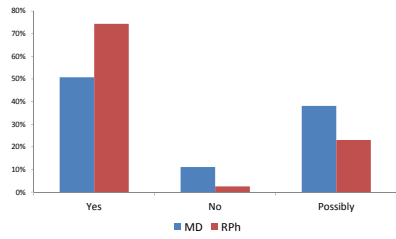
2013:

83 (out of ~300 contacted) accessed the survey; 63 usable data (21%)
Clinician Type: MD: 54, DO: 2, PA: 3, NP: 3, not stated:1

2014:

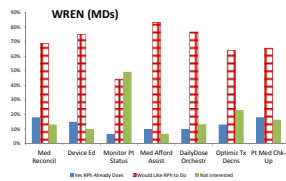
78 (out of ~300 contacted) accessed the survey; 64 usable data (21%);
Clinician Type: MD: 47, DO: 4, PA: 10, NP: 3

2013 Survey - Collaborating: Interest in a Joint Project?



Would you be interested at some point in working with physicians/pharmacists in your region on a joint project?

WREN (MDs)



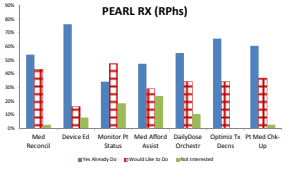
2013 Survey: Perceptions about Pharmacist Services

MDs were interested in having pharmacist do many of the services.

Pharmacists were doing many of the services or would like to do them

Monitoring patient status and medication affordability assistance were exceptions.

PEARL RX (RPhs)



PHARMACIST SERVICES

- **Medication Reconciliation in Care Transitions** (ensure patient medication regimen is updated/accurate before or after hospital or long-term care facility admits/discharges)
- **Medical Device Education** (patient education for correct use of inhalers, glucose monitors, BP equipment, durable med equipment, etc.)
- **Monitoring Patient Therapy Status** (completing BP, blood glucose, etc. checks & documenting results/helping patients maintain records)
- **Medication Affordability Assistance for Patients** (help patients enroll in manufacturer assistance programs or otherwise obtain meds economically)
- **Daily Dose Orchestration** (help patients arrange and synchronize the totality of their daily dosings)
- **Optimizing Therapy Decisions** (recommend therapy options using evidence-based medicine & pharmaco-economic information)
- **Patient Medication "Check-Up"** (in-depth evaluation of all meds taken to improve overall appropriateness, optimum use, & outcomes; includes safety, duplication, efficiency, & effectiveness evaluations and recommendations for patients & physicians)

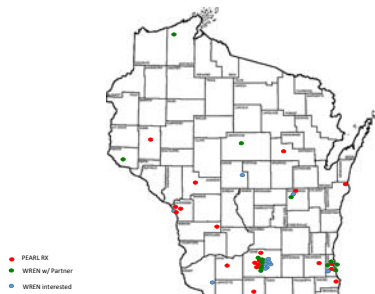
2014 Survey: Interest in Collaborating on Pharmacist Services

Medication Check-up	PEARL-RX (N = 21)	WREN (N = 64)
Interested exploring collaboration to provide this service	18 (86%)	54 (84%)
There is a particular partner to collaborate with to provide this service	12 (57%)	22 (34%)

Medication Reconciliation	PEARL-RX (N = 21)	WREN (N = 64)
Interested exploring collaboration to provide this service	19 (90%)	60 (94%)
There is a particular partner to collaborate with to provide this service	12 (57%)	24 (37%)

Daily Dose Orchestration	PEARL-RX (N = 21)	WREN (N = 64)
Interested exploring collaboration to provide this service	15 (71%)	53 (83%)
There is a particular partner to collaborate with to provide this service	9 (43%)	20 (31%)

Locations of respondents with specific partner for pharmacist service collaboration



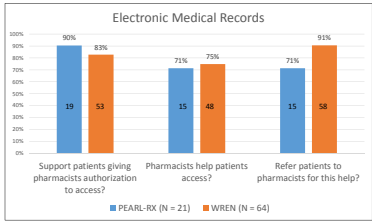
Electronic Medical Records (EMRs)

WREN

- Would you:
- Support patients giving pharmacists authorization to access patients' EMRs?
 - Want pharmacists to help patients access and use their EMRs?
 - Refer specific patients to pharmacists for this help?

PEARL-RX

- Would you:
- Want patients to give pharmacists authorization to access patients' EMRs?
 - Want pharmacists to help patients access and use their EMRs?
 - Have doctors refer specific patients to you for this help?



Conclusions

- There are potential collaborative alliances between primary care clinicians and pharmacists around interventions by pharmacists to help patients manage their medication therapies.
- There is support of pharmacists gaining authorization to access patient EMRs and helping patients access them.
- Pharmacist access to EMRs could lead to clinically relevant use of the information and potential useful input in primary care by pharmacists.
- Moving ahead to solidify the alliances and collaborative efforts can lead to improved patient care and outcomes.

Implications/Next Steps

- Follow-up with respondents to obtain names of specific partners for collaboration.
 - Determine whether the connection is between current WREN and PEARL RX members
 - Add to the networks where respondents had potential collaborators in mind
- Develop pilot projects to implement the collaboratively supported pharmacist services and evaluate them.
 - Identify pilot sites for the project
 - Gather background impressions and perceptions for potential success (including outcomes and implications for the sites/teams)
 - Grant development and submission
