

Collaboration is the Best Medicine: Growing the Relationship Between Physicians and Pharmacists

Taylor Maynard, Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate
WVU School of Pharmacy



Statement of Disclosure

Taylor Maynard has nothing to disclose concerning possible financial relationships with ineligible companies that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation

Learning Objectives

1. Analyze survey findings to identify collaboration opportunities
2. Understand the scope and benefits of interprofessional collaboration
3. Develop strategies for implementing collaborative practices



Why This Project?

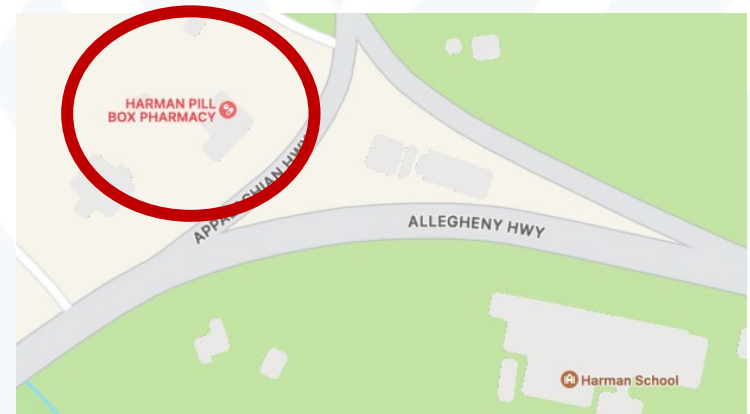
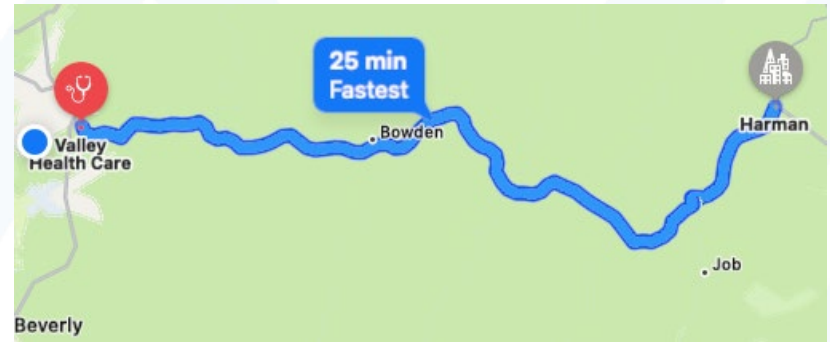
Born and raised in WV, witnessed the lack of direct access to care

Interacted with patients on a broader scope during rotations and school experiences

Passionate about pharmacists and maximizing our abilities as I prepare to enter practice

Background

- Pharmacists are often the first line of contact in rural communities
 - Example: Harman, WV
 - Pill Box Pharmacy in town
 - 22 miles (25 minutes) to nearest primary care office
- Recent expansions in pharmacist scope of practice in WV
- Working together with physicians, pharmacists can improve access to care for those living in rural areas





The Purpose of this Research

- Assess physicians' understanding of the roles a pharmacist may have in patient care, as well as physician comfortability with pharmacists providing specific services
- Understand areas of opportunities for advocacy and collaboration

Methods

- Electronic survey sent across the state to members of West Virginia Academy of Family Physicians (WVAFP)



Heather Johnson • 1st

Clinical Assistant Professor at West Virginia University

3mo • 🌐



Calling all West Virginia Primary Care Physicians! 📢 Please consider completing the following anonymous survey being conducted to assess primary care physicians' knowledge and perceptions of pharmacists and the services they provide. Your response will help pharmacists understand how to best support you in caring for your patients. The survey can be found here: https://lnkd.in/ejyNq_Sf

Angela L. Goodhart, Taylor Maynard (Class of 2024), and myself are excited to analyze the results! Please share so it gets out to all of our colleagues in internal medicine, family medicine, and geriatrics!

👍👤 You and 6 others

2 reposts



WVU School of Pharmacy

October 26, 2023 • 🌐



Calling all West Virginia Primary Care Physicians! 📢

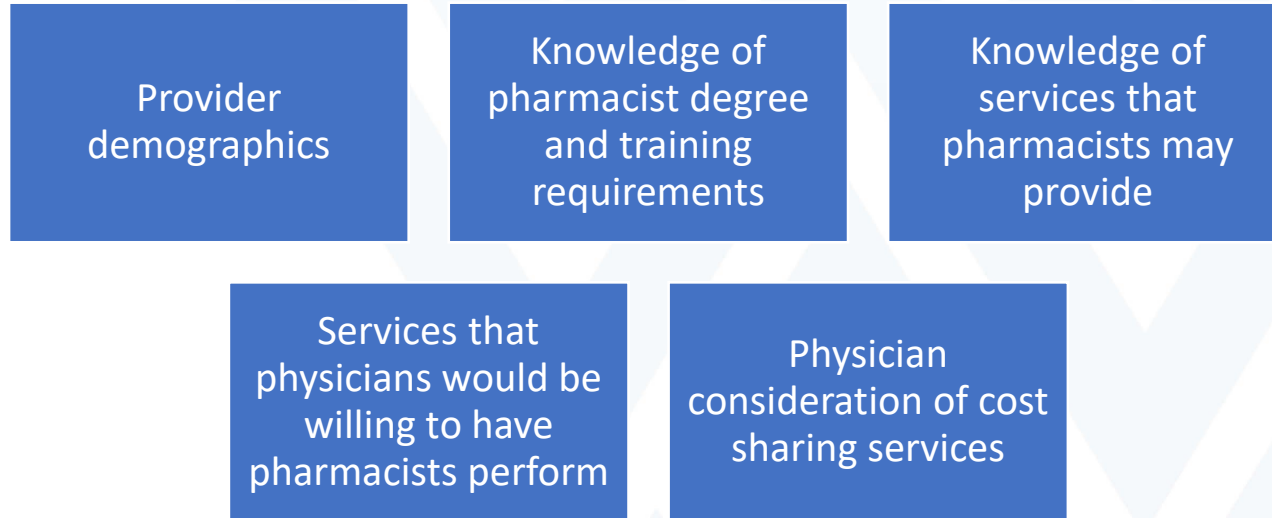
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The survey can be found here: https://www.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_exrG6X8Fqcyog8S

Thank you for your consideration and time!

Methods

- Survey items included:



- Data analysis completed with:

- Qualtrics
- Excel

Results



Physician Demographics

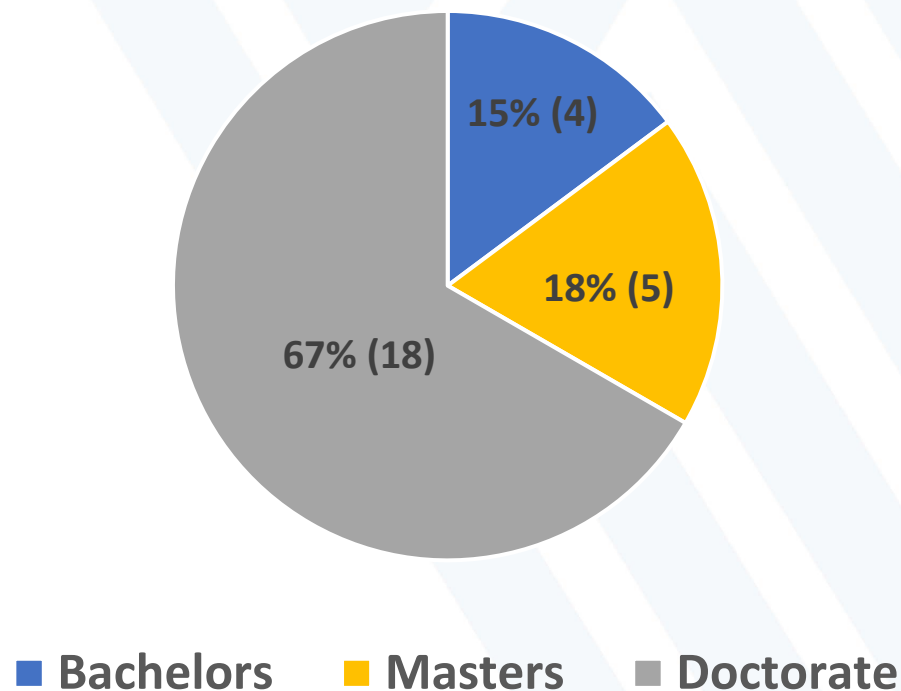
27 (96.4%) attendings
1 (3.6%) resident

24 (85.7%) in Family
Medicine
2 (7.1%) in Palliative Care
1 (3.6%) in Critical Care
1 (3.6%) in Urgent Care

10 (35.7%) have been
practicing for >21 years

Physicians' Perceptions of Pharmacist's Entry Level Degree:

Entry Level Degree for a Pharmacist



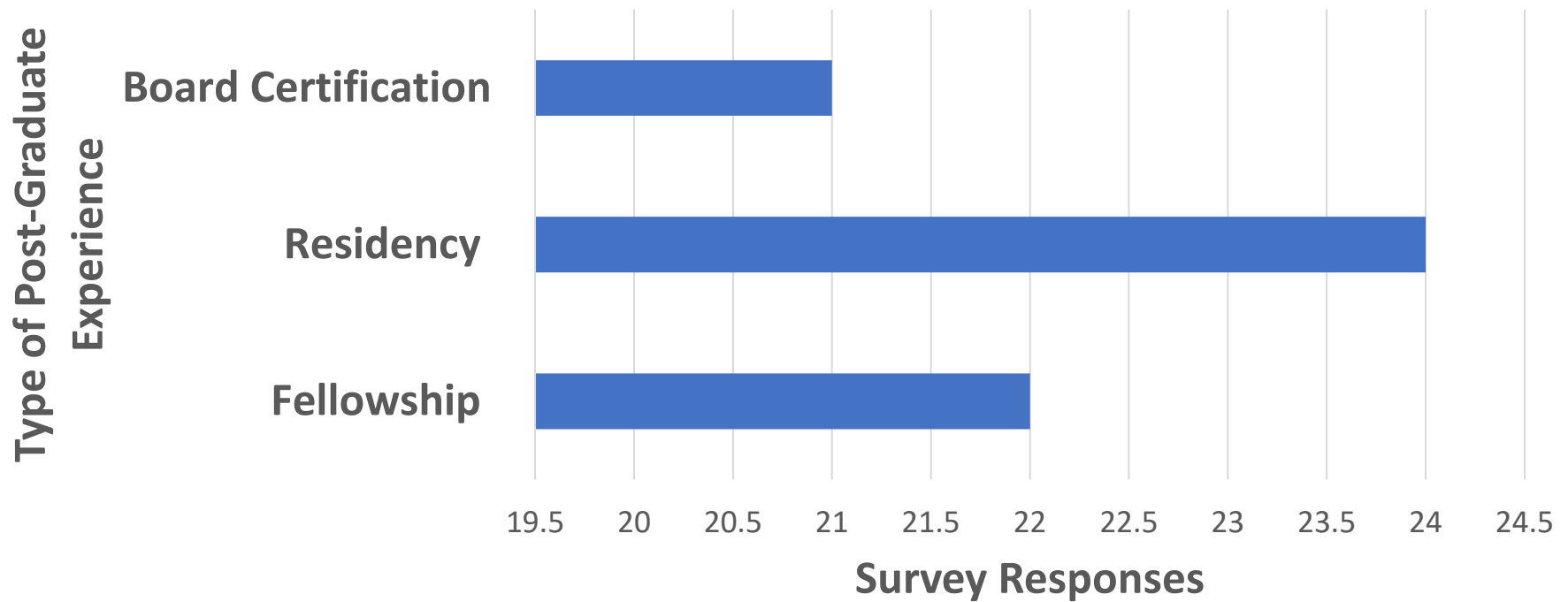


Doctor of Pharmacy Coursework

- Emphasizes written and oral communication skills, utilization of case studies, problem-based learning, and computer literacy
- Curriculum teaches a variety of hands-on skills such as patient counseling, physical assessment, and compounding.
- Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences, totaling 1440 hours or more, designed to prepare students for practice in fourth professional year
 - *Settings: academic medical centers, community hospitals, diabetes clinics, academia, community pharmacies, and more!*



Pharmacist Post-Graduate Opportunities



Post-Graduate Opportunities



Board Certifications

As of January 2021, more than 49,000 pharmacists obtained one or more certifications.



Residency

2023: 4,936 graduating pharmacy students pursued a residency

Examples:

- Ambulatory care
- Geriatrics
- Critical care
- Internal medicine



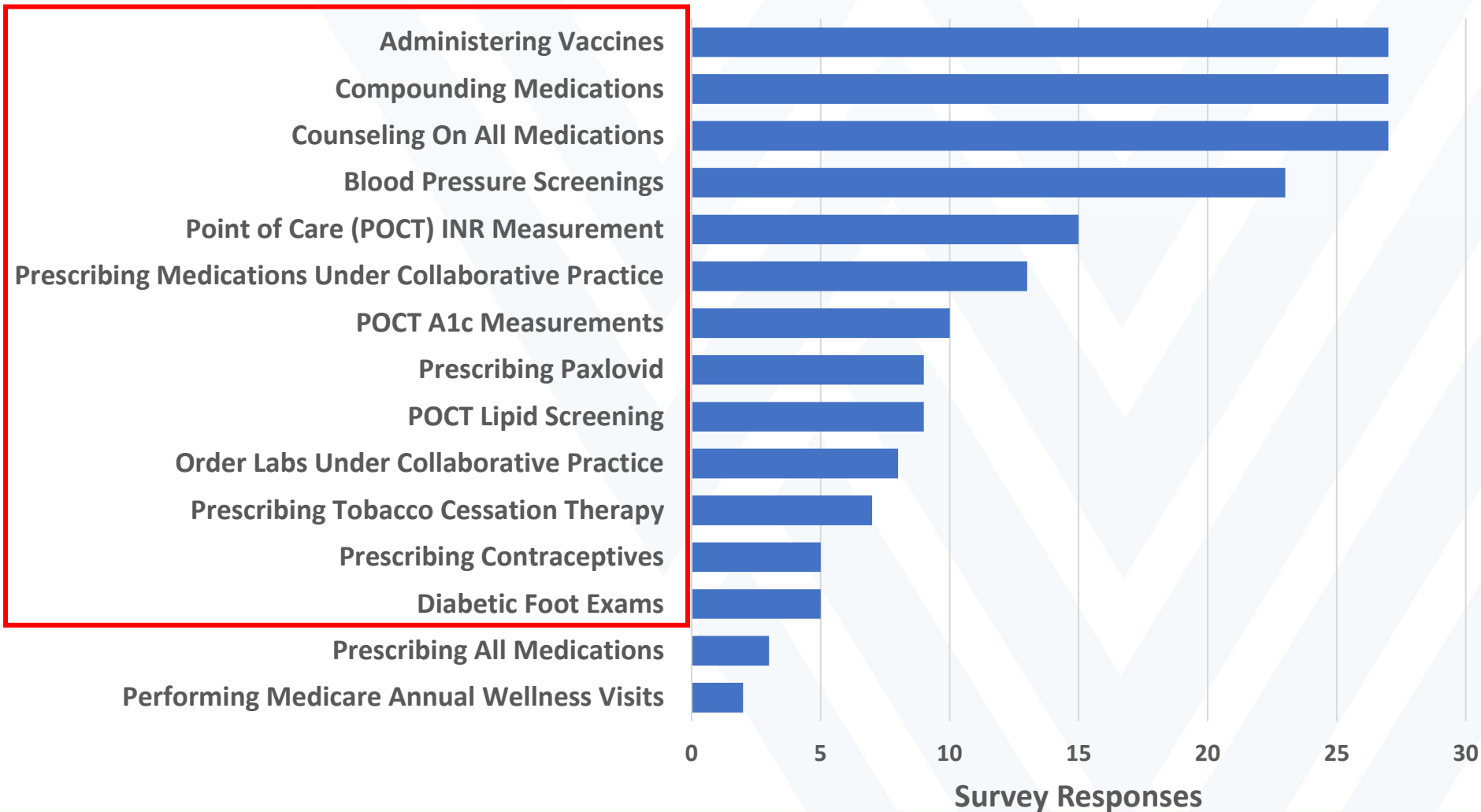
Fellowships

2022-2023: 738 pharmacists completing



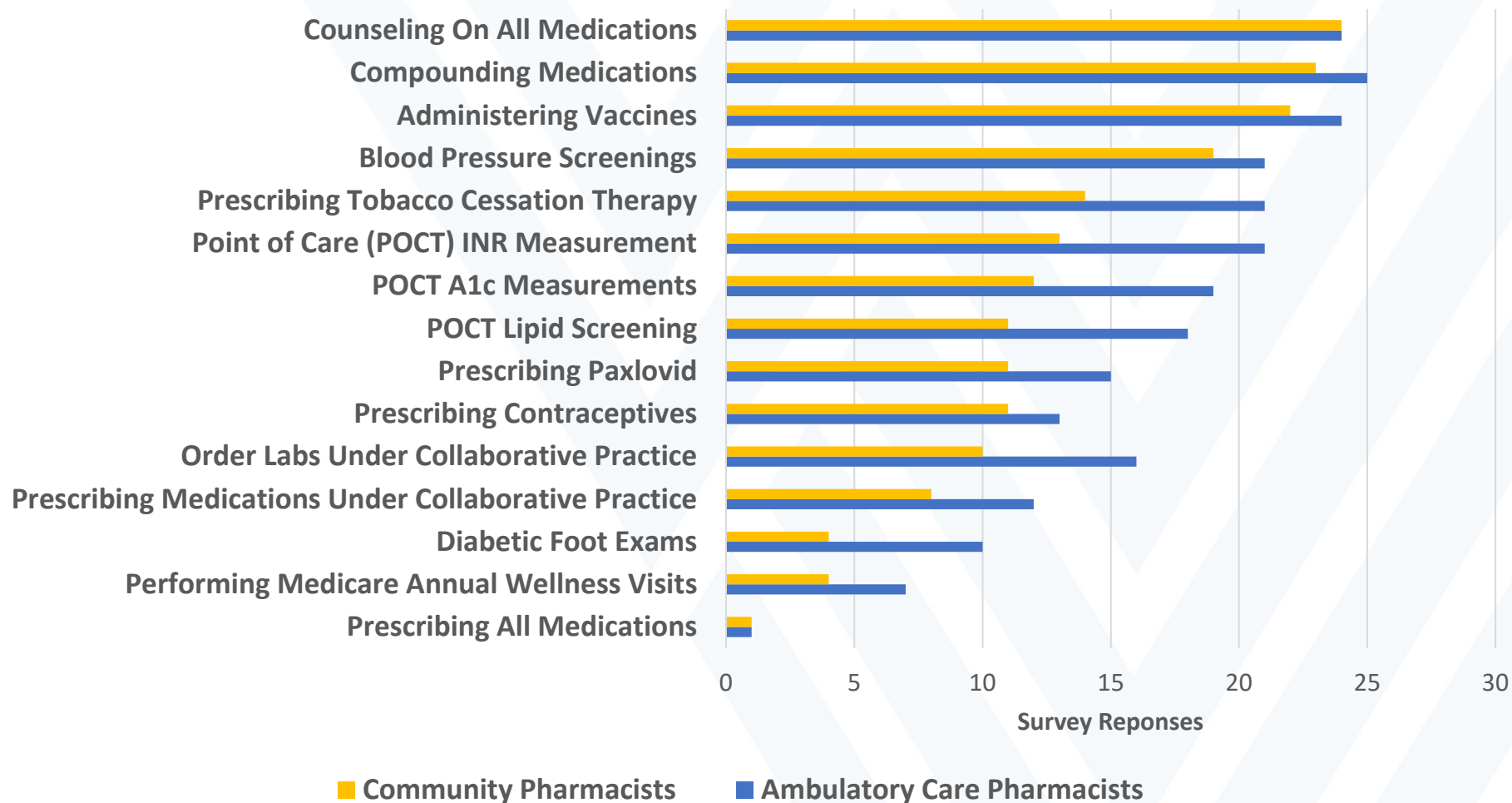
Physicians' Perceptions of Pharmacy Services

Knowledge of Services That Pharmacists Can Provide in WV



Comparison Between Community Pharmacists and Ambulatory Care Pharmacists

Physician Comfortability of Community vs Ambulatory Care Pharmacists Completing Services



Looking to the Future



Beyond the Pharmacy Counter

- Peter Kreckel, RPh (PA)
 - Nickman's Drugs, Adjunct Professor, Clinical Pharmacist at Empower 3
 - Completing FlipthePharmacy initiative, writes and distributes educational leaflets to local practices, developed “cheat sheets” for covered diabetes and COPD agents for particular insurance plans
 - *“We have to promote ourselves and the services we can provide. We need to show patients and doctors what we are capable of accomplishing.”*



Beyond the Pharmacy Counter

- Nikki Shay, PharmD
 - Health Center Pharmacy (WV)
 - Provides education, dosage adjustments, and follow up with primary care providers on patients' warfarin therapy
 - Weekly appointments worked into her role as a community pharmacist





Beyond the Pharmacy Counter

- Moundsville Pharmacy (WV)
 - Offers variety of services:
 - Medication synchronization
 - Medication packaging
 - Home delivery
 - Medication therapy management
 - Medicare Part D plan reviews



Collaborative Practice Agreements

- Currently described in West Virginia Pharmacy Law
- Outline provided on WV Board of Pharmacy website for “how to” complete
- Pharmacists and providers must meet all requirements and standards



Collaborative Practice Agreements: “Do’s” and “Do Not’s”

- **Do:**

- Allow physician to delegate with oversight
- Promote discussion regarding patient care between physician and pharmacist
- Aims to improve outcomes and access to care in rural areas
- Develop and maintain strong relationships between physicians and pharmacists

- **Do Not:**

- Allow a pharmacist to take over the physician’s practice
- Exclude the physician from direct patient care
- Alter the structure of physicians’ visits
- Aim to create animosity between the professions

How to Identify Pharmacists for Collaboration:



Located in your area that you have the ability to communicate with frequently



Independent pharmacies



Believes in what you are doing to improve patient care



Willing to complete the steps necessary and create a collaborative agreement to fit your needs



Requirements for Collaborative Practice

- A physician's eligibility may be verified through the Board of Medicine and Board of Osteopathic Medicine. Those able to collaborate must ensure that it remains within:
 - The medical scope and specialty of the physician's practice AND
 - The education, training, and experience of the pharmacist
- The Board of Pharmacy shall verify the pharmacist's eligibility and document that the pharmacist has the following:
 - One million dollars of professional liability
 - Meets one of the eligibility criteria
- May enter into collaborative practice in any setting
- Must complete practice notification with Board of Pharmacy

Improved Outcomes

INR Total Time
in Range (71.4-
84.6%)

Increase in the
percentage of
achieving
therapeutic
target HbA1c
by 22-39%

Reduction in
heart failure
hospitalizations
9%

Reduction in
hospitalizations
from asthma
30-75%



Collaborating Outside of a CPA



Community
pharmacy as a
point of access
for blood
pressure
monitoring



Diabetes
management
education at a
community
pharmacy



Pharmacists
developing
handouts
monthly on
relevant clinical
pearls for local
physicians'
offices



Post-discharge
medication
counseling



The Future of Collaboration

- Begins in this room!
- Will require time and development of a strong relationship between pharmacist and provider
- Allows patients to experience comprehensive medical care
- Unites and strengthens the healthcare field
- Enhances access to care in rural West Virginia



Interested in Connection?

- Please scan the following QR code and we will work to connect you to pharmacists in your area if you are interested in future collaboration!





Acknowledgements

- Angela Goodhart, PharmD, BCACP; Heather Johnson, PharmD, BCACP; Martha Abraham, PharmD for their mentorship and support throughout this entire project
- Dr. Benjamin Silverberg and Mr. Gerry Stover for their assistance in disseminating this survey and allowing us to present at the WVAFP conference
- Betsy Elswick, PharmD and Krista Capehart, PharmD for their assistance in connecting physicians and pharmacists throughout the state



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Questions?

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