

## **SYMPTOM NON-DISCLOSURE SECONDARY TO SELF-TREATMENT WITH HERBAL PRODUCTS**

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**Purpose:** To (1) identify self-treated symptoms with herbal products, (2) identify reasons for non-disclosure to the provider, and (3) determine changes needed within the health clinics to avoid potential adverse consequences secondary to undisclosed herbal use.

**Methods:** A questionnaire will be used to identify symptoms that are self-treated with herbal products, source of recommendation, form and sources of herbal products, disclosure to health care providers, and frequency of follow-up with provider for similar symptoms treated with herbals. The study will be conducted at five clinics located in Columbus, Ohio serving a primarily indigent population. Subjects 18 years and older waiting to see a health care provider at any of the clinics during study days will be asked to participate. Investigators and trained pharmacy students will administer the questionnaire during a patient interview. Fluent bilingual interviewers will collect information from non-English speakers. More than one family member will be allowed to participate in the study. A minimum of 200 interviews will be completed. Data will be entered into a SPSS database

**Results:** Data collection in progress. Preliminary results will be presented.

**Conclusions:** This study will provide baseline information regarding symptoms treated with herbal products and provider non-disclosure. The collected data may be used for developing future research projects on herbal use and implementation of health services and procedure changes within the health system to avoid adverse consequences such as herbals masking symptoms of a more serious health condition. This study will also provide data to identify symptoms attributed to different areas of interest identified by the National Center of Complementary and Alternative Medicines (NCCAM), such as insomnia, depression, or irritable bowel syndrome, allowing opportunities for future research projects.

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