

MEDICATION THERAPY MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR A NON-MEDICARE POPULATION: SHORT-TERM ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMIC, CLINICAL, AND HUMANISTIC OUTCOMES

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This is a medication therapy management service for employees of The Ohio State University. Through this project, comprehensive medication reviews were conducted at the Wooster and Mansfield branch campuses of The Ohio State University, and at a medical clinic for faculty and staff of that same institution. Non-pregnant employees aged 18 and above who received insurance benefits through their employer were eligible. Employees could self-request a medication review, or they could be referred by their physician. During the reviews, patients were asked about current use of prescription medications and nonprescription medications and supplements. Pharmacists and supervised student pharmacists performed the service. Summaries of the reviews with recommendations for drug therapy were sent to patients and their physicians. Patients will receive surveys to assess satisfaction with the service approximately three months after the reviews.

To date, 15 reviews have been performed. Data collection remains in progress. A number of outcomes will be assessed. Short-term economic outcomes will be the projected change in medication cost to the patient as well as to the insurer. Clinical outcomes will be the number and type of drug therapy problems identified, based on those described by Strand et al.¹ Humanistic measures will be assessed using a patient satisfaction survey. Finally, by analyzing economic and clinical data, we will determine whether medication reviews are more beneficial when self-selected by the patient or when a patient is identified by their physician and referred.

We anticipate that the short-term outcomes described above will show benefit for all parties involved. These benefits may help to justify implementation of a service for which pharmacists can be reimbursed.

1. Strand LM, Morley PC, Cipolle RJ, et al. Drug-related problems: their structure and function. DICP. 1990; 24(11):1093-7.

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