Promoting Consistent Use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP) in Outpatient Pharmacies: Removing Administrative Barriers and Increasing Awareness of Rx Drug Abuse

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BACKGROUND

Prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) are proving to be valuable resources in fighting the prescription drug abuse epidemic through improved access to patient drug histories. Ninety-four percent of Indiana pharmacists have heard of Indiana’s PDMP (INSPECT), only 71% of them reported using the program in 2012.

OBJECTIVE

To identify barriers to PDMP use in outpatient pharmacies and determine the impact these barriers have on utilization.

METHODS

A cross-sectional study examined pharmacists’ knowledge and use of INSPECT. Bivariate analyses on utilization and perceived barriers were conducted using cross-tabulations and X². Multiple logistic regression examined the relationship between pharmacists’ level of concern with prescription drug abuse and reported utilization.

RESULTS

Pharmacists were significantly less likely to use INSPECT if they reported at least one barrier and 3 times more likely to use INSPECT if they reported no barrier. Pharmacists were 10 times more likely to use INSPECT and 18 times more likely to use it more consistently if they were extremely concerned about prescription drug abuse in their community as compared to those not at all concerned.

CONCLUSION

Strategies to improve utilization of PDMPs should look for innovative ways to limit barriers and build outpatient pharmacists’ awareness of prescription drug abuse and misuse within their community.