

Minnesota Pharmacist-led MTM Program Resolves Nearly 800 Drug Therapy Problems in First Year

Pharmacists identified and resolved 789 drug therapy problems among 259 patients – an average of 3.1 drug therapy problems per patient – in the first year of Minnesota’s Medication Therapy Management Care Program from April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007. The program serves recipients of Medicaid and General Assistance Medical Care (a state program for low-income adults ages 21-64 who do not have dependent children under age 18 and who do not qualify for federal health care programs).

Seventy-three percent of the identified drug therapy problems were due to inadequate therapy. Participating patients were taking an average of 14 medications each. The 34 pharmacists providing services were collectively paid \$39,866 for their medication therapy management services, an average of \$92.50 per patient visit.

Researchers found that among the 114 patients with diabetes who participated in the program, 41 (36%) received “optimal care” by achieving all of the state’s benchmark standards for diabetic patients, potentially reducing total health expenditures for these patients by \$15,325. The statewide average for diabetic patients receiving “optimal care” is 6%. “Optimal care” is defined as: A1C (blood sugar) measurement below 8%; LDL-cholesterol measurement below 130 mg/dL; blood pressure measurement below 130/85 mm Hg; daily aspirin use if the patient is older than 41; and no tobacco use. The Minnesota Department of Health estimates “an annual cost savings amount of \$403.30 per patient for individuals in Minnesota over the age of 18 achieving the ‘optimal care’ benchmark for diabetes.”

The complete research results are available at
http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/business_partners/documents/pub/dhs16_140283.pdf.

To view ASHP's Policy Alert Archive click www.ashp.org/policy-alert

Questions about ASHP Health Policy Alerts can be directed to Lisa Daigle, policy analyst, at (301) 664-8651 or ldaigle@ashp.org.

ASHP Health Policy Alerts are synopses of new studies highlighting the medication-use process in health care, especially studies assessing contemporary pharmacists' role in improving medication-use outcomes. The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists encourages recipients to keep a copy of this synopsis for future reference.

