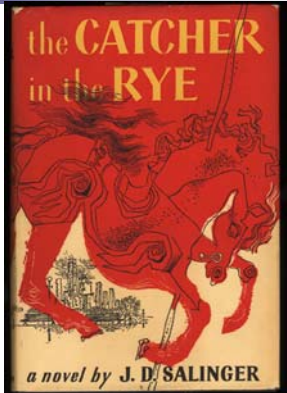


The catcher in the rye: Learning from community pharmacists' interventions on electronic prescriptions

Terri L. Warholak, Ph.D., R.Ph.
Michael T. Rupp, Ph.D., R.Ph.

Objective

- By the end of this session, the participant will be able to:
 - list the most common community pharmacist interventions on electronic prescriptions



Introduction

- Will e-prescribing decrease errors?
 - The Institute of Medicine (IOM) thinks so

- This analysis was part of *AHRQ Grant Award Number: 1 U18 HS016394-01*
 - *Intended to measure the incidence and types of e-Rx problems*

Methods

- Pharmacies could participate if they:
 - were one of 7 chain pharmacy chains in five states
 - processed ≥ 5 e-Rxs/day

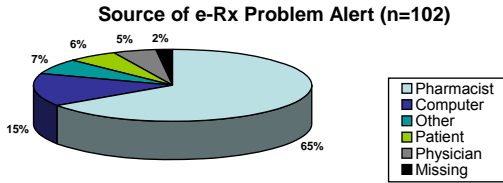
- 553 stores met this requirement
 - Participation was agreed to by 68 (55.7%) pharmacies in 5 chains

Pharmacist Interventions on e-Rxs

e-Rx Type	e-Rxs Reviewed	Interventions	%
New	2,234	92*	4.1
Refill	456	10	2.2
Total	2,690	102	3.8

* One intervention which was not designated as new or refill by the recording pharmacist was classified as new for this analysis.

Source of e-Rx Problem Alert



Top Reasons for Interventions

	n	%*
Omitted information	36	31.9
Insufficient dose	11	9.7
Excessive dose	9	8.0
Excessive quantity/duration	7	6.2
Non-formulary drug	7	6.2
Other	7	6.2
Insufficient quantity/duration	5	4.4
Total = 113		

Pharmacist Actions to Resolve e-Rx Problems

	n	%*
Prescriber consulted	75	64.1
Profile/medication history consulted	15	12.8
Patient/representative consulted	11	9.4
Other	10	8.5
Missing data	5	4.3
Literature search/review	1	0.9
Total	117	

* may not equal 100 due to rounding

Results of Pharmacist Interventions

	n	%*
Rx dispensed with modification	60	55.5
Rx dispensed without modification	16	14.8
Rx not dispensed	11	10.2
Unresolved situation	13	12.0
Missing data	8	7.4
Total	108	

* may not equal 100 due to rounding

Drugs Involved in e-Rx Interventions by Therapeutic Class

AHFS Pharmacologic-Therapeutic Classification	Primary Medication	
	n	%*
Central nervous system agents	19	18.6
Cardiovascular drugs	18	17.6
Anti-infective agents	15	14.7
Hormones and synthetic substitutes	13	12.7
Total	102	

* may not equal 100 due to rounding

Pharmacists are catchers for the health care team