



Pharmacy Forecast Workshop Cases

Topics: Population Health Management, Data and Technology, Pharmacy Workforce

Population Health Management

A health-system consisting of 15 hospitals, with over 50 clinics, and 20 retail pharmacies was engaged by a large pharmacy chain. The chain drugstore is seeking to partner with the health-system to share data across the electronic health record. The bilateral prescription data sharing capability with outside pharmacies offers the potential to improve safety, decrease unnecessary phone calls, and allow caregivers to view medications histories generated by third-party payers. The ultimate goal is to contribute to the management of population health, control cost, and improve quality.

General case questions:

1. If you were the pharmacy leader, understanding the preparedness of today's workforce and pharmacy graduates – what opportunities do you see for pharmacist in the role of population health management?
2. As the pharmacy leader, how would you determine which population to target? How will you operationalize your plan to allow pharmacists to impact population health?
3. What barriers do you anticipate pharmacists will face when trying to pursue a larger role in population health management than the practice is currently?
4. As a future pharmacist, how do you envision yourself to be more engaged in population health management?



Data and Technology

A large health system underwent the implementation of the electronic health records (EHR) to meet meaningful use requirements set by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Other health systems across the United States has also adopted the EHRs to meet CMS requirements. The growth of EHRs will increase the quantity of clinical data (aka Big Data) available electronically, which presents the opportunity to analyze the data to make meaningful decisions. A data analytics organization engaged your health system offering the ability to unlock the power of big data to allow you to control health care cost and improve quality of care.

General case questions:

1. How do you envision big data combined with technology will enable health care professionals to best take care of patients in the future?
2. As a pharmacy leader, what opportunities do you envision for pharmacy practice with the advent of big data and technology?
3. What unintended consequences do you anticipate will be created by design and utilization related to electronic health records across multiple settings?
4. As a pharmacist, what role do you envision big data, combined with healthcare devices play in evolving your future practice?

Pharmacy Workforce

Literature published suggests that the supply of pharmacists may exceed demand based on current pharmacy practices. In contrast, publication data also suggests that the demand of primary care exceeds the supply of primary care providers. To add to the scenario, healthcare payers has shifted the focus of reimbursement models from volume to value. Healthcare organizations are responding to payment reforms by redirecting their resources and capabilities towards population health management to improve access to quality care, while controlling cost. These factors creates new opportunities for the pharmacy workforce.

General case questions:

1. What are your opinions about the factors influencing the pharmacy workforce and how should student's best prepare?
2. Where do you feel there are opportunities for pharmacists to expand their role to better align demand with the supply of pharmacists?
3. What are your thoughts related to pharmacist obtaining provider status and collaborative agreements?
4. What do you foresee are critical steps for new pharmacists to ensure they are competent and capable practitioner as they seek employment in new patient care opportunities?
5. There remains to be a shortage of students receiving residency training. As a pharmacy leader, how should we evaluate pharmacist's credentials as we hire them to practice in these advanced roles?