

Pharmacist-led outreach safer supply program to improve access to care

Category: Oral Presentation

Abstract Body

Novel interventions are needed to address the toxic drug supply and meet the needs of those with substance abuse disorders. A safer supply program to provide pharmaceutical-grade medications to a vulnerable population in Guelph, ON has been offered since 2019. Traditional processes for community pharmacy dispensing model require the client to come into the pharmacy for observed doses. Many clients are persons who are street-involved, low-income, or difficult to reach due to geographical challenges. Using a novel approach, the pharmacist engages in outreach dispensing and makes daily rounds to visit clients “where they are at” to administer safer supply treatment and provide daily support and contact. This includes visiting individual’s homes, emergency shelters, campsites, community programs, and health centres. This model aims to provide low-barrier, flexible care options and improved retainment in care. Ongoing assessment of quantitative measures for use of street drugs, overdoses, and hospital visits are needed.

Key Words

- Future
- Pharmacologic Interventions
- Prevention/Harm Reduction
- Primary Care
- Safe Supply

Learning Objective # 1

Describe a novel approach to pharmacist dispensing of safer supply medications.

Learning Objective # 2

Demonstrate ways to engage patients in pharmacist observed, daily dispensing by providing unique and creative means to reduce barriers to care.

Reference # 1

Haines, M., O’Byrne, P. Safer opioid supply: qualitative program evaluation. *Harm Reduct J* 20, 53 (2023).
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12954-023-00776-z>

Reference # 2

National Safer Supply Community of Practice.

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