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Preceptor Perceptions of Contemporary Practice Skills Amongst New Graduates Amid Community Pharmacy Transformation



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Introduction

- As community pharmacy transforms, the desired skills of pharmacist graduates in contemporary community practice is evolving.¹
- Most student pharmacists pursuing a career in community pharmacy upon graduation rely solely upon their pharmacy school training as preparation for entering practice.^{2,3}
- Community pharmacy preceptors' perceptions of contemporary practice services and skills essential for new graduates may be useful in identifying methods of educating and assessing PharmD candidates in their preparation to enter the evolving landscape of community practice.
- For the purposes of this research, we have defined contemporary practice as reflecting an expanded clinical role with a focus on outcomes driven, patient-centered interventions, along with preventative care, quality indicators, payer partnerships, interprofessional collaboration, etc.

Objective

- Identify essential skills for new graduates in contemporary community pharmacy as perceived by current practitioners.

Methods

Researchers developed an anonymous web-based survey using REDCap to be administered to active Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE) community preceptors

The survey included 3 sections:

1. Preceptor Demographics (Table 1)
2. Perceptions of "contemporary" services & an evaluation of services offered at their sites (Figures 2, 3)
3. Essential skills for graduates entering contemporary community practice (Figures 4, 5)

Following IRB approval from East Tennessee State University, the survey was distributed via email to preceptors meeting specified inclusion criteria:

- Practicing pharmacists over the age of 18
- Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE) community pharmacy preceptors for the College in TN, NC, VA, and KY accepting students within 2018 and 2019 academic years. (N = 168)

Participants were given 30 days to complete the optional survey. Weekly emails were sent as reminders until the survey closed.

Following the completion of the survey window, data was collected via REDCap and statistical analysis was performed using SPSS version 25.

Results

Table 1. Preceptor Demographics (n)

Demographic	Percentage	Count
Sex		
Male	47.6%	(20)
Female	52.4%	(22)
Age		
25 to 34 years	38.1%	(16)
35 to 44 years	19%	(8)
45 to 54 years	35.7%	(15)
55 or older	7.2%	(3)
Years of Practice		
Less than 1 year	2.4%	(1)
1 to 5 years	16.7%	(7)
6 to 15 years	40.5%	(17)
More than 15 years	40.5%	(17)
Practice Setting		
Chain	45.2%	(19)
Independent	54.8%	(23)
Primary Role		
Clinical Coordinator	4.8%	(2)
PIC / Manager	52.4%	(22)
Pharmacy Owner	21.4%	(9)
Staff Pharmacist	14.3%	(6)
Other	7.1%	(3)

Total N = 42 Response Rate = 25%

Figure 2. Services Offered vs. Services Considered Contemporary

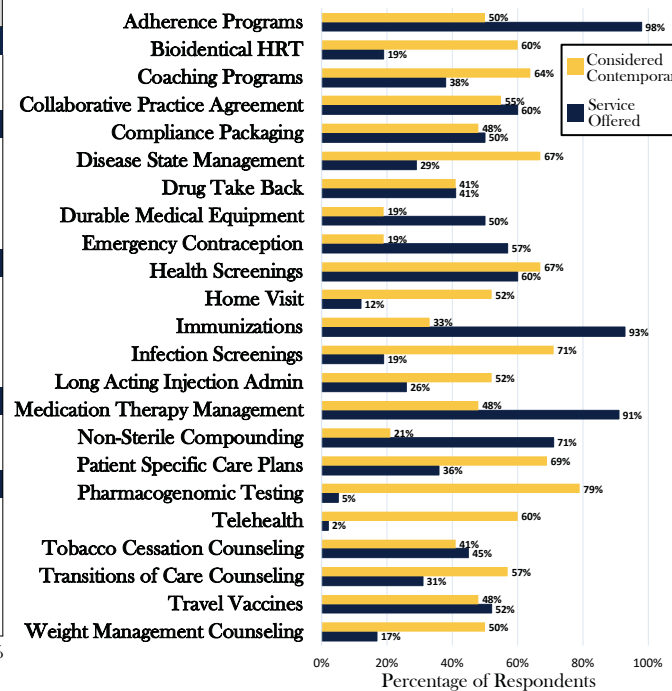


Figure 3. Top 5 Most Offered Services Versus Most Contemporary Services

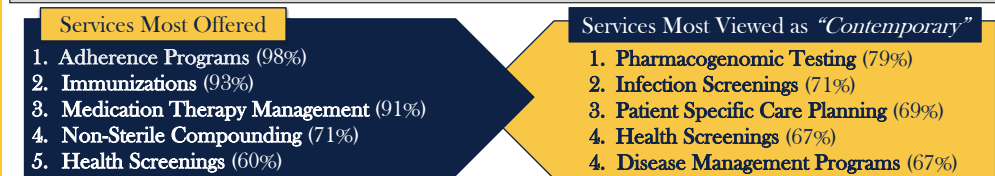


Figure 4. Mean Composite Scores of Categories Ranking the Importance of Skills for a Graduate Entering Contemporary Community Practice (5 Point Scale)

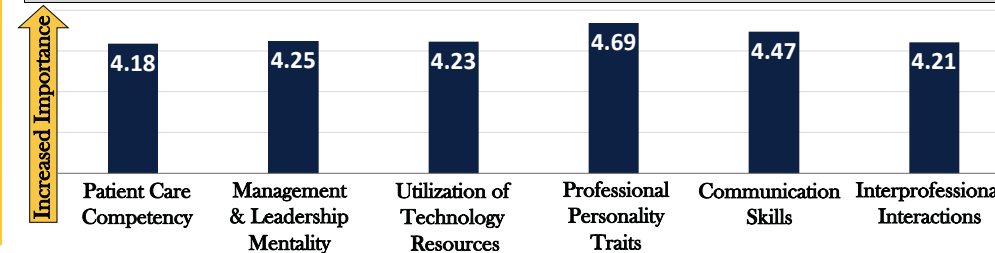
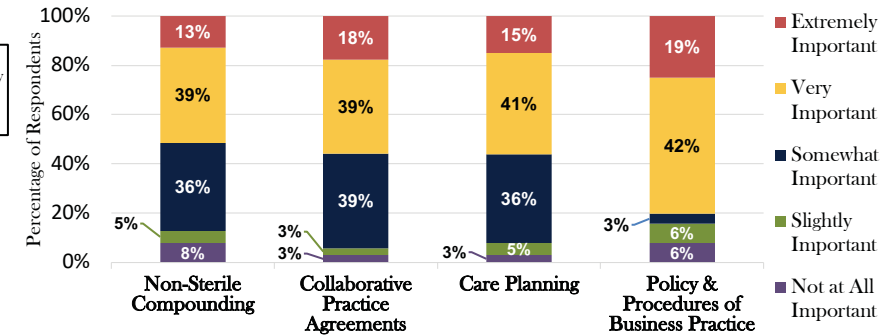


Figure 5. Skills with the Broadest Range of Perceived Importance



Discussion & Limitations

- Services that are proportionately offered and perceived as contemporary may indicate transformations that have already seen implementation in community practice.
- Services that are widely more perceived as contemporary compared to their prevalence may specify emerging areas of practice that are not yet being implemented.
- The prevalence of services offered may be influenced by a variety of factors such as profitability, regional trends, participation in enhanced services networks (CPESN), etc.
- There was broad consensus in the perceived importance of most skill areas offered in the survey (Figure 4) with just a few showing broader discrepancies (Figure 5) with a minority of respondents suggesting skills held less importance. Due to preceptors' comparable ranking of the importance of skills, no clear priority could be discerned.
- Limitations may exist due to small sample size within a limited geographical region.

Conclusion

- Preceptor surveys may offer insights on the incremental progression of community pharmacy curricula.
- Monitoring fluctuations of these parameters over time could disclose trends in community pharmacy practice transformation, further delineating service areas that are trending toward adoption in contemporary practice.

References

1. Avalere Health. Exploring Pharmacist's Role in a Changing Healthcare Environment. Washington, DC: Avalere Health, LLC; 2014.
2. Sweet BV, Kelley KA, et al. Career Placement of Doctor of Pharmacy Graduates at Eight US Midwestern Schools. Am J Pharm Educ. 2015;79(6): Article 88.
3. American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Summary of Programs and Positions Offered and Filled in the 2019 Match: Combined Phase I and Phase II. natmatch.com/ashprmp/stats/2019summpos.pdf. Accessed August 25, 2019

None of the investigators have anything to disclose regarding this research.



Poster & Survey