

EDUCATION GRANT SPOTLIGHT...



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“The Development of a Pocket Card for Assessing Antiretroviral Therapy in Hospitalized HIV-Positive Patients”

Michelle Foisy and co-applicants Elliot Pittman, PharmD, MD; and Emily Li, PharmD, received a CSHP Foundation Education Grant of \$2,758 in 2015.

Q: How did the concept/idea for your research project come about?

A: The project initially came about as a PharmD student project with the goal of developing a useful HIV guide for inpatient practice. Due to the complexity antiretroviral (ARV) therapy and that fact that non-specialized clinicians are often less familiar with HIV management, very high rates of drug error have been reported in the literature. Since reducing drug errors involves a multi-faceted approach, including staff education and resources, the goal of this project was to develop educational material for hospital-based clinicians with a focus on patient assessment and prevention/detection of drug errors.

Q: What was the purpose of your education project?

A: The objective of this project was to develop and disseminate a user-friendly pocket card providing guidance on seamless care and assessing ARVs in HIV+ inpatients. This would serve as a unique, evidence-based clinical tool to support pharmacists and other clinicians in the care of this population.

Q: What impact did your project have on your organization and/or pharmacist practice in general?

A: Survey results from a pilot evaluation of the pocket card demonstrated that inpatient pharmacists found it to be a comprehensive and useful tool to guide patient assessment, particularly when HIV patients are not commonly seen in practice. They also found the web links to specialized HIV resources to be helpful. In practice, the HIV program pharmacists are frequently contacted by inpatient clinicians for the provision of seamless care, to verify the correct ARV regimen and for consultation on complex patients.

Q: How will your education project benefit other pharmacists and/or healthcare systems?

A: Pocket cards were distributed widely to inpatient and corrections health care workers in Alberta and have been promoted nationally through CSHP provincial branch chapters and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Pharmacists Network (CHAP). Pharmacy students in Alberta will also be receiving copies in the upcoming academic year.

Pocket cards are available on-line and for order free of charge at:

Alberta Version: http://www.bugsanddrugs.ca/documents/Antiretroviral_Assessment_2017.pdf

Canadian Version: http://orders.catie.ca/product_info.php?products_id=26449

Q: How will your education project impact patient care?

A: While the objective of the project was to develop a pocket card ARV guide, the underlying goal is ultimately to increase awareness of the consequences of drug errors in HIV inpatients and hopefully prevent/reduce medication errors in this population.

Q: What role did the education grant play in supporting your professional career?

A: As a clinician working in HIV practice, I see the positive impact of reducing drug errors when performing medication reconciliation on patients and facilitating seamless care with all health care partners, including community, corrections and inpatient health care workers. The education grant greatly assisted in getting this message out to inpatient practitioners while providing them with a practical tool to integrate into practice. Collectively, we can work toward reducing significant drug errors in this population.

Publication and Presentations: See the CSHP Foundation website, [Publications](#) page for links to publications related to this education grant project.

The role of the hospital pharmacist is changing; research and education will support the change.

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