This study focused on special populations of patients such as pregnant patients and children, thus assuring the most vulnerable patients can safely acquire medications over the counter with pharmacist assistance.

METHODS

Study Design
- Survey-based, cross-sectional study conducted amongst pharmacists who are currently practicing, or have practiced in the past, in a community pharmacy setting.
- 178 surveys collected

Inclusion Criteria
- Community Pharmacist
- Completed full survey
- Currently practicing (required for all but final secondary variable)

Outcomes of the Study
- Primary: percentage of cases answered correctly in the survey and the perceived safety of recommendations made.
- Secondary: percentage of responses recoded versus years practiced, mean score on the quiz and how it varied according to years practiced (0-5, 6-10, 11-20, 20+ years), level of comfort in recommending OTC medications and how many products the pharmacist recommends weekly, percentage of correct answers on each question and how it varied between the two special populations: pregnancy and childhood, and what makes pharmacists uncomfortable when recommending OTC medications.

Data Collection Method
- Survey crafted with Qualtrics and distributed through email and by posting on a Pharmacist Facebook group page.
- Survey completely voluntary and anonymous. No information collected about which pharmacy responder works for.
- To meet power and obtain a 95% confidence level with less than a 10% margin of error, a sample size of at least 96 was deemed necessary based on the amount of community pharmacists currently estimated to be practicing in the United States.

Data Analysis
- Only fully completed surveys were used for analysis. 178 surveys were submitted, 146 were fully completed, and 104 were submitted by currently practicing community pharmacists.
- Data analyzed using descriptive statistics such as mean and standard deviation.

RESULTS

Survey
- There is overlap between pharmacists that are uncomfortable recommending OTC products and those who are recommending more than 5 OTC products every week.
- Additional education is needed on safety updates for OTC items, either through yearly required CE or monthly safety updates.