

Assessing Student/Alumni Knowledge of the Medicare Part D Phases and Confidence in Explaining Medicare Part D to Patients

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Abstract

Objective: To assess student/alumni knowledge in Medicare Part D and its four phases as well as student/alumni confidence in explaining Medicare Part D to patients.

Methods: Two hundred and eighty-four Southern Illinois University Edwardsville pharmacy students and alumni were asked to complete a 19-question survey that included demographic, knowledge-based, and confidence-based questions. Three categories were measured including student/alumni knowledge in the four phases of Medicare Part D, student/alumni confidence in explaining Medicare Part D to patients, and which work/classroom experiences provided to most positive impact to student and alumni confidence when explaining Medicare Part D to patients.

Results: Sixty students and alumni self-reported a lack of knowledge in the four phases of Medicare Part D and confidence in explaining Medicare Part D to patients. The Class of 2022 expresses the greatest confidence in educating patients on Medicare Part D with an average confidence of 3.2 out of 5 but show similar results to all other classes when it comes to the knowledge-based questions after getting 39% correct on the knowledge-based questionnaire. Students/alumni reported that work and educational experience has provided them with the most positive impact when it comes to confidence in explaining Medicare Part D to patients.

Conclusion: Students and alumni lack knowledge in the four phases of Medicare Part D and confidence in explaining Medicare Part D to patients. Further education may be needed within the curriculum in order to increase student/alumni knowledge and confidence in explaining Medicare Part D to patients.