

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

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Introduction

- Pharmacists play an integral role in explaining Medicare Part D coverage to patients.
- The four phases of Medicare Part D include the annual deductible, the initial drug coverage phase, the coverage gap, and catastrophic coverage.
- With the complexity of insurance, many pharmacist, interns, and technicians have faced a multitude of barriers when it comes to explaining Medicare Part D to patients.
- There have been many studies that show the use of curriculum-based learning for Medicare Part D increases student knowledge and confidence in explaining Medicare Part D.

Objective

- To assess student and alumni knowledge on the phases of Medicare Part D and confidence in explaining these phases to patients.
- To determine which work/curriculum experiences have provided students/alumni with the most positive impact on knowledge and confidence in explaining Medicare Part D to patients.

Methods

Study Design

- Single center, descriptive, qualitative survey study
- Survey Design: 19-question survey assessing students and alumni's demographic information, knowledge of Medicare Part D, confidence in explaining Medicare Part D to patients, and experiences that have made a positive impact on their confidence

Study Population

- Second, Third, and Fourth professional year pharmacy (P2, P3, and P4) students and Class of 2022 alumni from SIUe School of Pharmacy

Data Analysis

- Samples were described using the Likert Scale and frequencies/percentages.
- Analysis computed via Excel Algorithms

Results

Table 1. Assessing Student/Alumni Confidence in Explaining Medicare Part D to Patients by Class (n = 60)

Confidence Survey Item	Classes				Average per Question
	2022 (n=17)	2023 (n=17)	2024 (n=16)	2025 (n=10)	
Explaining a deductible	4.1	3.8	3.2	3.2	3.6
Explaining the initial drug coverage phase	3.3	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.6
Explaining entering the initial drug coverage phase	3.0	2.7	2.2	2.0	2.5
Explaining the coverage gap	3.2	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.4
Explaining when a patient will enter the coverage gap	3.2	2.5	2.2	1.7	2.4
Explaining catastrophic coverage	3.2	2.6	2.4	1.6	2.5
Average per Class	3.2	2.7	2.3	1.8	2.5

-- Based on a 5-point Likert Scale (5 = very confident, 1 = not confident)

Table 2. Average Quiz Scores Based on Class and Work Experience

Class	Average Quiz Score
2022 (n=17)	39%
2023 (n=17)	40%
2024 (n=16)	40%
2025 (n=10)	24%
Pharmacy Setting	Average Quiz Score
Community (n=33)	38%
Hospital (n=8)	33%
Both (i.e. Community and Hospital) (n=18)	37%
None (n=1)	40%
Years of Pharmacy Experience	Average Quiz Score
1-2 years (n=8)	50%
3-4 years (n=27)	35%
5+ years (n=24)	35%
None (n=1)	40%

-- Maximum possible score of 100%, minimum possible score of 0%

Results

Table 3. Positive Impacts on Confidence Based on Classroom and Work Experience

Specific Experience	Impact on Confidence
Work Experience	6.5
Community APPE	4.7
P1 Fall Semester: Health Care Systems	3.7
P2 Fall Semester: Pharmacy Management I	3.1
P2 Spring Semester: Healthcare and Financial Management	2.9

--Based on a 10-point Likert Scale (10 = huge impact, 0 = no impact)

Discussion

- There is a lack of knowledge and confidence in explaining Medicare Part D to patients.
- Experience through work and school has made a positive impact on student/alumni confidence in explaining Medicare Part D to patients.
- We are seeing lower knowledge-based scores which concludes that students with more experience throughout school and work do not have more knowledge than the students who lack confidence.
- An immersive educational session could be beneficial in improving overall knowledge and confidence in explaining Medicare Part D to patients upon graduation.

Limitations

- Single-center
- Small sample size
- No lock-down browser for knowledge-based questions

Contact

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