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Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Costs and Plan Satisfaction as a Function of Student Pharmacists’ Assistance

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University of the Pacific- Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy & Health Sciences Stockton, CA
Presenter Disclosures

The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No Relationships to disclose
Medicare Part D: The Intent

- Plans offered through private insurance companies
  - Beneficiaries would have many plan options
  - Competition would decrease drug prices

- Each company can:
  - Offer up to three plans per region
  - Determine the plan formulary and drug restrictions
  - Decide on the cost-sharing structure

- Medicare open enrollment period
  - 2006-2010: November 15th - December 31st
  - 2011- Currently: October 15th - December 7th
Medicare Part D: The Challenge

Too many choices?

Confusion?

Opportunity Cost?

33 stand-alone prescription drug plans (2012- California)

• New plan offerings
• Changes in plan formularies
• Cost-sharing changes

Consequences of failing to annually reevaluate plan offerings
Objectives

Out-of-pocket costs → Trained student pharmacists → Plan satisfaction
2011-2012 Community Outreach Events
Methods

Demographics

Plan Selection

Plan Satisfaction and Cost

[Image of people discussing in a meeting]
# Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>With Prior Pharmacy Student Assistance n=171</th>
<th>Without Prior Pharmacy Student Assistance n=346</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preferred Language</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>121 (72.5)</td>
<td>231 (68.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-English</td>
<td>46 (27.5)</td>
<td>107 (31.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Highest Level of Education Completed</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Grade or Less</td>
<td>10 (6.0)</td>
<td>39 (11.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some High School (9th-12th grade)</td>
<td>8 (4.8)</td>
<td>35 (10.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Diploma or Equivalent</td>
<td>24 (14.3)</td>
<td>60 (17.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College or Associate Degree</td>
<td>42 (25.0)</td>
<td>76 (22.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree or Higher</td>
<td>81 (48.2)</td>
<td>128 (37.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prescription Drug Coverage Type</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stand-Alone Prescription Drug Plan (PDP)</td>
<td>161 (94.7)</td>
<td>244 (74.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan</td>
<td>8 (4.7)</td>
<td>74 (22.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditable Coverage</td>
<td>1 (0.6)</td>
<td>11 (3.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prescription Drug Subsidy Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Subsidy</td>
<td>102 (64.2)</td>
<td>181 (58.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid or Low-Income Subsidy (LIS)</td>
<td>57 (35.8)</td>
<td>128 (41.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prescriptions, No. (%)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-2</td>
<td>35 (20.7)</td>
<td>74 (22.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>38 (22.5)</td>
<td>83 (24.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>33 (19.6)</td>
<td>80 (23.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;6</td>
<td>63 (37.2)</td>
<td>97 (29.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean ± SD</td>
<td>5.7 ± 3.7</td>
<td>5.2 ± 3.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“How did you choose your current Medicare Drug Plan?”

- Pacific Pharmacy Students
- Insurance Broker
- Auto-enrolled
- Family or Friend
- Pharmacist/Health Care Provider
- Medicare

n=501; 1%
Without Prior Pharmacy Student Assistance
n=277

With Prior Pharmacy Student Assistance
n=155

2012 Estimated Annual Plan Cost ($)

Beneficiary Plan Rating

Excellent
n=29 (18.7%)

Very Good
n=45 (29.0%)

Good
n=59 (38.1%)

Fair
n=15 (9.7%)

Poor
n=7 (4.5%)

Excellent
n=47 (17.0%)

Very Good
n=58 (20.9%)

Good
n=122 (44.0%)

Fair
n=34 (12.3%)

Poor
n=16 (5.8%)
With Prior Pharmacy Student Assistance: n=155

Without Prior Pharmacy Student Assistance: n=277

2012 Estimated Annual Plan Cost ($)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Without Prior Pharmacy Student Assistance</th>
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<td>Good</td>
<td>n=59 (38.1%)</td>
<td>n=122 (44.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>n=15 (9.7%)</td>
<td>n=34 (12.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>n=7 (4.5%)</td>
<td>n=16 (5.8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Aggregate average
Without Prior Pharmacy Student Assistance  
n=277

With Prior Pharmacy Student Assistance  
n=155

2012 Estimated Annual Plan Cost ($)

Beneficiary Plan Rating

Aggregate average

Excellent  
n=29  
(18.7%)

Very Good  
n=45  
(29.0%)

Good  
n=59  
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n=47  
(17.0%)

Very Good  
n=58  
(20.9%)

Good  
n=122  
(44.0%)

Fair  
n=34  
(12.3%)

Poor  
n=16  
(5.8%)
With Prior Pharmacy Student Assistance
n=155

With Prior Pharmacy Student Assistance
n=277

2012 Estimated Annual Plan Cost ($)

Non-subsidy recipient
Subsidy recipient
Aggregate average

Excellent
n=29
(18.7%)

Very Good
n=45
(29.0%)

Good
n=59
(38.1%)

Fair
n=15
(9.7%)

Poor
n=7
(4.5%)

Excellent
n=47
(17.0%)

Very Good
n=58
(20.9%)

Good
n=122
(44.0%)

Fair
n=34
(12.3%)

Poor
n=16
(5.8%)
Conclusion

• Beneficiaries underutilize Medicare as resource for plan selection.

• Beneficiaries assisted with Part D plan selection by trained pharmacy students expressed higher levels of plan satisfaction.

• Beneficiaries can realize potential out-of-pocket Part D cost savings if provided targeted assistance (trained student pharmacists).

• Pharmacy students can serve as beneficiary advocates by helping with Part D plan optimization and provide beneficiaries with peace of mind.