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Objectives

- Describe the value of a clinical pharmacist in a HIV ambulatory setting as demonstrated at Spectrum Medical Group
- Explain the ways a clinical pharmacist can enhance patient care and improve outcomes
- Establish the importance of a pharmacist in the collaborative management of the HIV patient

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Background

- The role of a clinical pharmacist in a HIV practice is not only novel and uncommon, and but also constantly evolving.
- With the increasing complexity of HAART regimens and the management of HIV positive patient with comorbidities, the role of the pharmacist is critical in health care paradigm.
- Limited data is available to specifically address the role of the pharmacist and HIV
 - Saberi et al. The impact of HIV clinical pharmacists on HIV treatment outcomes: a systematic review. April 2012¹
- Kibicho et al. in AIDS Patient Care, Jan 2012²
- Ma et al. in AIDS Care, October 2010³

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- Role of a Traditional Retail Pharmacist
- Order transcription and product verification
- Pill identification, dosage check and drug interaction
 management
- Limited access to medical chart and patient history

Role of a Clinical Pharmacist

- Proactive detection and management of medication related problems
- Therapeutic recommendations and collaboration
- Enhanced access to patient medical records
- Comprehensive patient care and optimization of therapy

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Directly Involved in Patient Care

- · Monitor patient response, adherence, and outcomes
- · Not limited to a single practice setting

Drug Therapy Expert

- · Focus on pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions
- · Highly trained specialists in complex disease states

Evidence Based Value Added Services

- Statistical impact on adherence and outcomes^{1, 2, 3}
- Reimbursable services designed to optimize therapy regimens

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Increasing Patient Outcomes

- · Assumes accountability for achieving therapeutic goals
- · Innovative health and wellness solutions

Improving Patient Satisfaction

- Communicates frequently with patients and care givers
- · Empowers patients to take responsibility in their own care

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· Develops sustained relationships

Decreasing Costs

- · Evaluates cost and alternative assistance options
- · Value added services and cost benefit evaluations

The purpose of this pilot is to explore the role of a clinical pharmacist in an outpatient HIV practice. Pharmacists detect and manage both potential and actual medication-related problems through the medication reviews and patient consultations. Pharmacists also make therapeutic recommendations by working collaboratively with other staff including physicians, nurses, case managers, and social workers. Pharmacists serve as a drug information resource for HIV/AIDS pharmacotherapies, including antiretroviral therapy dosages, drug interactions, and genotypic resistance assay interpretation.

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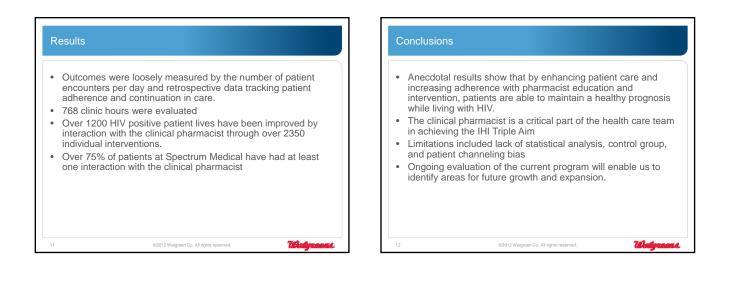
- Walgreens Pharmacy provided a non-dispensing clinical pharmacist to Spectrum Medical Group, one day per week for four vears.
- The pharmacist was extensively trained in HIV and had full interactive access to patient medical records and worked under the supervision of the Medical Director, Dr Thanes Vanig.
- Patient education targeted patients with a recent HIV diagnosis, new start ARV treatment, new switch in ARV treatment and those with persistent problems with adherence.
- Patients were contacted at 2 weeks post medication initiation or change and were followed at regular intervals thereafter.
- Significant support and follow-up was also documented with regard to patient barriers of any kind.

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References

- 1. Saberi P et al. Patients Prefer Adherence: The impact of HIV clinical pharmacists on HIV treatment outcomes: a systematic review. 2012;6:297-322. Epub 2012 Apr 5.
- Kibicho J. A patient-centered pharmacy services model of HIV patient care in community pharmacy settings: a theoretical and empirical framework. AIDS Patient Care STDS. 2012 Jan;26(1):20-8. Epub 2011 Dec 8
- 3. Ma A et al. Improving adherence and clinical outcomes through an HIV pharmacist's interventions. AIDS Care. 2010 Oct;22(10):1189-94.
- 4. Institutes for Healthcare Improvement. www.ihi.org.

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