Pharmacists’ Practices and Perceptions of Dispensing Syringes without a Prescription
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Results
Figure 2. Pharmacists’ Support for the Dispensing of Syringes without a Prescription

- 68.7% support dispensing
- 13.7% do not support

Figure 3. Pharmacists’ Comfort with Dispensing Syringes

- 59.6% feel comfortable
- 22.7% feel uncomfortable

Figure 4. Pharmacists’ Comfort with Patient Education

- 89.9% feel confident
- 10.1% do not feel confident

Table 2. Pharmacists’ Practice Behaviors when Dispensing Syringes without a Prescription

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dispense Syringes without a Prescription</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identification Practice - (%)*</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Request Patient ID</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company Policy - (%)*</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>其他</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Substation Provided - (%)*</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide Substance Abuse Information</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide Syringe Disposal Information</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Improvement Disposal Information</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%Dispensing - (%)*</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused to Sell Syringes without a Prescription - (%)*</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%Dispensing - (%)*</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Typical refusal reasons: concerns of drug abuse, identification (no/invalid ID), customer behavior

Conclusion
- Although required by law, substance abuse information is not being offered consistently to patients when dispensing without a prescription.
- Efforts could be made to standardize practices and raise awareness about prescription syringe sales: Resistant pharmacists’ refusal due to drug abuse concerns.

References

Limited
- New Jersey community pharmacists exhibit a variety of practices and perceptions regarding the sale of over-the-counter syringes.
- The majority of pharmacists who do not dispense syringes believe that syringes should not be available over-the-counter.

Evaluation
- A majority of respondents indicated dispensing syringes without a prescription.
- Over 60% of pharmacists request identification before dispensing syringes.
- Over 30% of pharmacists do not provide information about substance abuse, despite regulations requiring them to do so.
- The majority of pharmacists who dispense syringes without a prescription believe that they should be available over-the-counter.

Conclusions
- New Jersey community pharmacists exhibit a variety of practices and opinions regarding the sale of over-the-counter syringes.
- Efforts could be made to standardize practices and raise awareness about legality, counseling importance, and risks versus benefits of dispensing syringes without a prescription.

Limitations
- Email addresses were registered with the New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy may not have been up-to-date.
- The small study population may limit generalizability.
- Survey questions were not validated.

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