Background

- Drug-related problems (DRPs) can lead to patient harm and unnecessary increases in healthcare costs.
- Approximately 700,000 emergency room visits and 120,000 hospitalizations are due to drug-related events each year.¹
- Medication therapy management (MTM) services allow pharmacists to resolve potential DRPs and improve drug therapy.
- Identifying which patients are at a higher risk for DRPs, and thus would benefit most from an MTM consultation, can be difficult.
- Factors like patient age and number of medications have been associated with a higher incidence of DRPs.²,³,⁴
- Number of chronic conditions has also been shown to increase the risk of DRPs.³,⁴
- Much of the current literature is based in elderly populations, which may limit generalizability to patient populations with a lower average age.
- Many previous studies utilized a survey to determine patient characteristics, making the results dependent on both patient participation and patients’ ability to answer questions accurately.

Methods

- This study will be performed at a dispensing pharmacy for university employees in Auburn, Alabama.
- Retrospective data analysis will be used to determine the correlation between patient characteristics and the number of identified DRPs.
- A model will be developed from the patient characteristics that show a high correlation to the number of DRPs.

Application to Practice

- This model could provide an efficient way of determining which patients should be targeted for an MTM consultation.
- Providing MTM services for those at high risk for DRPs will ensure the efficacy and safety of patients’ drug regimens.
- This process would allow for better allocation of resources by focusing on patients that would derive the greatest benefit from an MTM consultation.
- This model could be useful in other community pharmacies that offer MTM services.

References


Disclosure

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