

Oluchukwu M. Ezeala, BPharm

PhD Student

Department of Health Outcomes Research and Policy

Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy

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Education

Bachelor of Pharmacy

September 2018

University of Nigeria Nsukka, Enugu State, Nigeria

Position Held

Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Health Outcomes Research and Policy
Auburn University

Fall 2022 - present

Research Interests

Immunization

Shared clinical decision-making

Medicare

Publications

1. **Ezeala OM**, McCormick NP, Meininger CL, Fish F, Beckner J, Ha D, Snead R, Vance H, Westrick SC. Factors Influencing Immunization Record Retrieval from Immunization Information Systems Among Independent Community Pharmacies: A National Survey. Submitted to Vaccine X Journal (Under Review)
2. **Ezeala OM**; McCormick N; Zhao Y; Yang H; Westrick SC. Effectiveness of Medicare Part B Preventive Service Educational Brochures on Uptake Intention. Submitted to BMC Geriatrics Journal (Under Review)
3. Yue Z, McCormick NP, **Ezeala OM**, Durham SH, Westrick SC. EMSIG: Uncovering Factors Influencing COVID-19 Vaccination Across Different Subgroups Characterized by Embedding-Based Spatial Information Gain. *Vaccines*. 2024;12(11):1253.
4. McCormick NP, **Ezeala OM**, Durham SH, Westrick SC. Assessing Barriers to COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing in Community Pharmacies: Insights from Alabama. *J Am Pharm Assoc (2003)*. 2024:102286.
5. **Ezeala OM**, McCormick NP, Meininger CL, Durham SH, Hastings TJ, Westrick SC. Factors Associated with the Implementation of Pediatric Immunization Services: A Survey of Community Pharmacies. *Vaccines*. 2024;12(1):93.
6. Meininger C, **Ezeala O**, McCormick N, Fish H, Beckner J, Ha D, et al. Utilization of Immunization Information Systems (IIS) among independently owned community pharmacies: A national survey. *Vaccine*. 2024;42(2):65-8.

Presentations

International and National

1. **Ezeala OM***; McCormick NP; Ezeja LV, Jaradat S; Durham SH; Westrick SC. Exploring the impact of Patient Trust in Community Pharmacists on Vaccination Decision-Making Preferences During Shared Clinical Decision-Making. Abstract accepted for poster presentation at the 2025 APhA Annual Meeting and exposition.
2. Saulawa A; Scott K; **Ezeala OM**; Westrick SC. Shared Clinical Decision-Making on Vaccines in Community Pharmacies. Abstract submitted for a poster presentation at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research.
3. Westrick SC; McCormick NP; **Ezeala OM**; Meininger CL; Durham SH. Factors Influencing Provision of COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing Services in Community Pharmacies in a Southeastern State, USA. Poster presented at the 82nd International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Cape Town, South Africa. September 2024
4. **Ezeala OM***; McCormick NP; Meininger CL; Durham SH; Westrick SC. Patients' Awareness and Preferences in Shared Clinical Decision-Making for Vaccine Recommendations. Presented on **podium** at the National Immunization Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. August 2024
5. McCormick N; **Ezeala, OM**; Durham SH; Westrick SC. Exploring Vaccination Determinants among Adult Alabama Residents: A Study on COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccination Uptake. Presented on podium at the National Immunization Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. August 2024
6. Westrick SC; **Ezeala OM**; McCormick NP; Meininger CL; Vance H; Fish H; Beckner J; Ha D; Snead R. Factors Influencing Immunization Record Retrieval from Immunization Information Systems Among Independent Community Pharmacies: A United States National Survey. Poster presented at the National Immunization Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. August 2024
7. **Ezeala, OM***; Qian J. Effectiveness of Pharmacist-Led Interventions on Medication Use and Health Outcomes in Alzheimer's Disease or Other Dementias: A Systematic Review. **Poster** presented at the Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia. May 2024
8. **Ezeala, OM***; McCormick NP; Meininger CL; Hastings TJ; Durham SH; Westrick SC. Factors Associated with the Implementation of Pediatric Immunization Services: A Survey of Community Pharmacies in Alabama. Presented on **podium** at the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting and Exposition, Orlando, Florida. March 2024
9. McCormick N; **Ezeala, OM**; Meininger CL; Hastings TJ; Durham SH; Westrick SC. Development of Measures to Assess Pharmacists' Perceived Barriers and Role in Pediatric Immunization Delivery. Presented on podium at the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting and Exposition, Orlando, Florida. March 2024
10. Westrick SC, Meininger C, **Ezeala O**, Fish H, Beckner J, Ha D. Factors Associated with Immunisation Registry Utilisation amongst Independent Community Pharmacies in the United States. Poster presented at the 81st International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Brisbane, Australia. September 2023
11. **Ezeala, OM***; McCormick N; Westrick SC. Effectiveness of Medicare Part B Preventive Service Educational Brochures on Uptake Intention. **Poster** presented at the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Annual Meeting and Exposition, Phoenix, Arizona. March 2023

Regional

1. **Ezeala OM***; Ezeja LV; McCormick NP; Durham SH; Westrick SC. Determinants of Patients' Willingness to Participate in Shared Clinical Decision-Making for Vaccines with Community Pharmacists. **Poster** presented at the Southern Pharmacy Administration Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. August 2024
2. McCormick NP; Yue Z; **Ezeala OM**; Durham SH; Westrick SC. Leveraging Machine Learning to Identify Determinants of COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccination Uptake Among Alabama Residents. Poster presented at the Southern Pharmacy Administration Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. August 2024
3. Garza KB; Westrick SC; **Ezeala OM**; Blakely ML; Moczygemba LR; Kamal KM; Thornton D; Heaton P. Survey of SAS Programs. Presented on podium at the Southern Pharmacy Administration Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. August 2024

Local

1. **Ezeala, OM***; McCormick NP; Meininger CL; Hastings TJ; Durham SH; Westrick SC. Factors Associated with the Implementation of Pediatric Immunization Services: A Survey of Community Pharmacies in Alabama. Presented on **podium** at the Auburn University research symposium, Auburn, Alabama. March 2023
2. **Ezeala, OM***; McCormick N; Westrick SC. Effectiveness of Medicare Part B Preventive Service Educational Brochures on Uptake Intention. **Poster** presented at the Auburn University research symposium, Auburn, Alabama. March 2023

***Presenter**

Continuing Education Program Publications

1. Westrick SC; Ezeala OM. Connecting Older Adults with Community Resources. 2024
2. Westrick SC; Ezeala OM. Navigating Medicare Advantage Plans: Maximizing Plan Utilization for Better Health Outcomes (Paper). Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy, Auburn, Alabama. 2024
3. Westrick SC; Ezeala OM. The Basics of Medicare for Pharmacy Personnel (Paper). Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy, Auburn, Alabama. 2023
4. Westrick SC; Ezeala OM. Pharmacists' Role in Assisting Medicare Patients with Limited Income (Paper). Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy, Auburn, Alabama. 2023

Teaching

Taught a 3-hour session on the United States healthcare system to visiting Thai pharmacy students at the Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy, Auburn, Alabama June 2024

Awards

1. Dean's Travel Award 2022, 2023, 2024
2. Second Place University Wide Award for Poster Presentation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics 2023

Professional Memberships

- The Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) 2020, 2024
- American Pharmacists Association (APhA) 2023-2024

Blog

1. Ezeala OM. How Pharmacists Can Increase Adult Vaccines Uptake. Certified Aging Resource Educated Specialists (C.A.R.E.S) Pharmacy Network. Available from: <https://www.alpharmacycares.org/post/how-pharmacists-can-increase-adult-vaccine-uptake>
2. Ezeala OM. New Vaccine Added to Shared Clinical Decision-Making. C.A.R.E.S Pharmacy Network. Available from: <https://www.alpharmacycares.org/post/new-vaccine-added-to-shared-clinical-decision-making>
3. Ezeala OM. Pneumococcal Vaccination Now Recommended for Adults Starting at Age 50. C.A.R.E.S Pharmacy Network. Available from: <https://www.alpharmacycares.org/post/new-vaccine-added-to-shared-clinical-decision-making>
4. Ezeala OM. FDA Grants Marketing Authorization of Single COVID-19 and Flu Test Kit. C.A.R.E.S Pharmacy Network. Available from: <https://www.alpharmacycares.org/post/fda-grants-marketing-authorization-for-single-covid-19-and-flu-test-kit>
5. Ezeala OM. Pneumococcal 21-valent Conjugate (PCV 21) Vaccine Recommendations for U.S. Adults. C.A.R.E.S Pharmacy Network. Available from: <https://www.alpharmacycares.org/post/pneumococcal-21-valent-conjugate-pcv-21-vaccine-recommendations-for-u-s-adults>
6. Ezeala OM. Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Vaccination Update: Shared Clinical Decision-Making Recommendation Removed for Adults 60+. C.A.R.E.S Pharmacy Network. Available from: <https://www.alpharmacycares.org/post/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv-vaccination-update-shared-clinical-decision-making-recommendation>

Newsletter Articles

1. **Ezeala, OM.** Role and Achievements of Senior Medicare Patrols in Combating Medicare Fraud. Certified Aging Resource Educated Specialists (C.A.R.E.S) Pharmacy Network Newsletter Issue 24. Available from: https://www.alpharmacycares.org/files/ugd/c49bc9_b3658ccb561042488c4cfc2fd7634c9d.pdf
2. **Ezeala, OM.** Understanding Medicare: Navigating Annual Open Enrollment Period, Medicare Advantage Enrollment Period, and Challenges in Plan Selection. C.A.R.E.S Pharmacy Network Newsletter Issue 22. Available from: https://www.alpharmacycares.org/files/ugd/2944cd_014cded279994003ac05a340299ae7a0.pdf

3. **Ezeala, OM.** RSV in Older Adults: Transmission, Outcomes, Prevention, and the Vaccines. C.A.R.E.S Pharmacy Network Newsletter Issue 21. Available from:
https://www.alpharmacycares.org/files/ugd/2944cd_66602062b03b4a989b56e4aceba15719.pdf
4. **Ezeala, OM.** Importance of Social Support for Healthy Aging. C.A.R.E.S Pharmacy Network Newsletter Issue 20. Available from:
https://www.alpharmacycares.org/files/ugd/2944cd_f6d589c38ffd45e5b6b7142e2bff3192.pdf
5. **Ezeala, OM.** Telemedicine and Medicare Fraud. C.A.R.E.S Pharmacy Network Newsletter Issue 19. Available from:
https://www.alpharmacycares.org/files/ugd/eb8083_ab2544594c7142c4bfd0609af9185914.pdf

Community Engagement and Outreach Activities

1. Vaccine Education Workshop for older adults at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) April 2024
Auburn, Alabama.
2. Outreach on Medicare-Covered Preventive Services for Older Adults at:
 - CityFest Event, Auburn, Alabama April 2024
 - CityFest Event, Auburn, Alabama April 2023
 - City market Event, Auburn Alabama May 2023
 - City market Event, Auburn Alabama July 2023

Leadership and Involvement

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| Emissary , Health Outcomes Research and Policy Department | August 2024 – Present |
| Cabinet Member , Auburn University Graduate Student Council | August 2024 – Present |
| Committee Member , Health and Welfare Committee | August 2024 – Present |
| Committee Member , Events Committee | August 2024 – Present |

Mentorship Experience

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| Peer Mentor to an Undergraduate and a PharmD Student at the Department of Health Outcomes Research and Policy, Auburn University | Fall 2024 - present |
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