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The effect of clinical pharmacy services on readmissions and length of stay in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

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With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), more focus has been placed on coordination of care and reducing unnecessary medical costs. As a result, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will not fully reimburse for a related diagnosis, such as myocardial infarction, chronic heart failure, or pneumonia, if readmission occurs within a 30-day period. In October 2014, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) will be added to this list. Healthcare organizations will need to focus on improving patient outcomes and minimizing excessive health care costs. Medications are considered first line management for interventions related to COPD. Appropriate medication adherence is necessary to prevent readmissions. The existing literature has demonstrated in patients currently have problems adhering to their medication regimens. Approximately one-half of patients in the United States do not take their medications as prescribed. Pharmacists are in a unique position to help overcome many of these challenges. The effect of clinical pharmacy services on readmission rates, length of stay, and financial implications will be evaluated in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The research project focuses on the effect of pharmacist's interventions and the correlation of 30-day readmissions of patients with a primary or secondary diagnosis of COPD. Pharmacists and pharmacy students will provide patients with disease, drug and device education, as well as ensure drug and device access upon patient discharge. Outcomes that will be evaluated include readmission rate, length of stay, financial implications, and patient satisfaction.

Biography

Rupal Patel Mansukhani earned her pharmacy degree at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. She completed a community practice residency at the University of Illinois in Chicago and Dominick's Pharmacy. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor at Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy/Rutgers University. Her clinical practice site is at the Morristown Medical Center. She currently works with patients prior to discharge to help with medication therapy management and the ease of transitions of care. Currently, her focus is in the areas of hypertension, heart failure, anticoagulation, COPD, and Medication Therapy Management (MTM). She has multiple publications and is dedicated to advancing the practice of pharmacy.

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