

Hypertension Management Program Implemented in Haisch Pharmacy

Challenge

Cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death in South Dakota, a chronic illness usually associated with elevated or uncontrolled blood pressure (hypertension). Healthcare systems are continually searching for new and innovative ways to treat their patients in a manner most beneficial and effective for them. This often times requires looking to healthcare providers and team members based in the community, who are typically more accessible to the patient.

Solution

The Community Pharmacy Enhanced Services Network of South Dakota (CPESN SD) partnered with the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program (HDSPP) to offer an eight-month community-based hypertension management program through six community-based pharmacies.

Results

CPESN SD's stores (community-based pharmacies) have been quick to implement this program. Community-based pharmacists are often looking for ways to play a larger role in the healthcare team and this provides an excellent opportunity to ensure consistent education, awareness and follow-up related to hypertension and healthy lifestyle choices.

Timeline

HDSPP first partnered with CPESN SD in July 2019. At that time, CPESN SD developed and implemented a new protocol to identify patients with uncontrolled hypertension and developed a new non-physician enhanced team-based hypertension management program for the pharmacy setting. Participating pharmacies received education on the program objectives and requirements and participant recruitment and enrollment began in November/December 2019. The program closed patient enrollment at the end of February 2020 to allow for alignment with the project period.

Key Components

Each participant enrolled in the HDSPP/CPESN SD hypertension management program received one-on-one education and lifestyle counseling, including an ongoing series of services designed to teach and counsel participants on how to make healthy lifestyle choices, such as exercise, diet, and tobacco cessation. An automated blood pressure cuff was supplied so participants could regularly check their blood pressure at home as part of the program. Upon enrollment, each participant worked with their hypertension management coach to establish a baseline blood pressure, develop a care plan and course of treatment, establish blood pressure goals, receive blood pressure goal counseling and lifestyle and behavioral modification recommendations, and reconcile all medications. Participants also received a written summary of the initial education session. In addition to their initial education session, participants received training on home blood pressure readings and ways to document, weekly care calls from a pharmacy care team member with pharmacist intervention if required, monthly meetings to discuss medication compliance, treatment progress, and update goals, and electronic documentation and health record exchange with the appropriate healthcare team members. Each participant completes eight months of hypertension management services as part of this program.

Evidence-Based Interventions

HDSPP partnered with the CPESN SD to implement two evidence-based interventions: Support engagement of non-physician team members in hypertension management and Facilitate use of self-measured blood pressure monitoring with clinical support among adults with hypertension.

Successes

Haisch Pharmacy enrolled a participant who had multiple chronic conditions and had ended up in the emergency room several times with blood pressures in the hypertensive urgency range prior to starting the hypertension management program (HMP). After being enrolled, the pharmacy staff started to watch for trends in his blood pressure. Within one week, the pharmacy contacted the participant's physician to make changes to his medication due to blood pressures greater than 160-170/90 despite medication and multiple emergency room visits. Over the weeks that followed, several interventions were made and his blood pressures have lowered to the 130-140 systolic range. Haisch pharmacy continues to work with this individual's physician team and hopes to help him maintain blood pressures in his physician's goal range of <140/90.

Haisch Pharmacy enrolled a young participant who was identified through a blood pressure screening. This participant is a smoker and would like to quit but has been struggling to do so. She did not realize the impact smoking was having on her blood pressure. It was through this program the pharmacist was able to not only help her control her hypertension but also help her quit smoking by using the blood pressure monitor as a tool. While many people know smoking increases blood pressure, it can be hard to show this to the patient. By monitoring her blood pressures on a daily basis and at different times of the day, she could see the impact of smoking or not smoking on her blood pressures.

Next Steps/Other Info.

CPESN SD will receive funding again in fiscal year 2021 as part of the HDSPP 1815 Year 3 cooperative agreement with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. During Year 3, CPESN SD will enroll an additional 60 participants in their hypertension management program and will develop and implement a provider referral system to assist with participant recruitment.

“ I think this program is really a great thing. It seems like there is so much time between appointments with my physician. This gives me a way to stay on top of monitoring my blood pressure between appointments and it is nice to know someone is looking at them regularly. ”

– Austin Block

Pharmacist, Haisch Pharmacy