

# Emerging chronic disease prevention or management programs by community pharmacists: A systematic review

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**OBJECTIVES:** This review aims to build on previous literature, identify and describe recent chronic disease prevention or management programs delivered by community pharmacists.

**METHODS:** Systematic review of Scopus, PubMed, EMBASE, and International Pharmaceutical Abstracts from January 2009 to April 2014 using PRISMA guidelines. Two independent reviewers assessed papers for inclusion with discrepancies resolved by consensus or a third independent reviewer. English language articles that reported on new community pharmacist services, programs, or models associated with chronic diseases were included. Grey literature was searched using Google. Bibliographies of retrieved articles were manually reviewed for additional articles for inclusion.

**RESULTS:** We identified 14 articles from peer-reviewed sources plus 6 articles from grey literature. Sixty-five percent (65%) of the articles were from North America. Other articles originated from Australia (20%), Belgium, Ireland, and Thailand (5% each). Programs were implemented for 14 conditions that were prevalent, under-diagnosed, and associated with high health care costs. Main program components included administering screening tools, referral to other providers, health promotion, and creating and implementing care plans. Outcomes were evaluated for 19 programs (95%) including 5 randomized-controlled trials. Results suggested community pharmacists were able to improve clinical and lifestyle outcomes for patients. Programs varied in complexity and design but both pharmacists and patients shared a high level of satisfaction for interventions delivered in a community pharmacy setting. Most studies required a brief training session and were well received by pharmacists.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Emerging evidence suggests community pharmacists can positively impact patient outcomes through implementing diverse disease prevention or management programs.