

Chronic pain stakeholder engagement workshop

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OBJECTIVES: To identify and better understand the challenges and opportunities for community pharmacists in optimally managing chronic pain as perceived by patients, caregivers, advocacy groups and health care providers, in order to plan for patient-centered pharmacist interventions.

METHODS: Health care professionals and advocacy groups working with chronic pain patients in the Southwest Ontario area were invited to participate via email or telephone. Patients and family members or caregivers were invited to participate through referral by health care professionals or the advocacy groups. Participants were assigned to one of three groups: professionals, advocates and patients/caregivers. Nominal Group Technique (NGT) was used to gather and rank data collected.

RESULTS: Seventeen (17) participants generated 69 items in total. Items were classified into 10 priority areas: education, trust, finance, scope of practice, health promotion, communication, access, feedback, team and technology. Education was identified as one of the top three challenges by all groups. Recognition of pharmacists as a member of the interdisciplinary team and improved communications among providers were also ranked as essential.

CONCLUSIONS: Participants identified numerous opportunities for the pharmacist to meet needs of patients with chronic pain. Results will be used to inform intervention design in the next phase. Part of Ontario Pharmacy Research Collaboration (OPEN).