

Improving Medication Adherence Documentation for Specialty Pharmacy Patients

Hayley O'Rourke, PharmD, CSP, Kaitlin Ciaramitaro, PharmD, MHA, CSP, Ryan H. Lackey, PharmD Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

Background

- Medication non-adherence is expensive to both patients and the healthcare system, costing billions of dollars yearly in the United States alone.¹
- To improve specialty medication adherence, proper non-adherence documentation (referred to as SmartPhrase) must be completed in the electronic medical record (EMR).
- By improving non-adherence documentation and educating patients on the importance of compliance, we aim to improve patient outcomes and decrease cost burden on the patient and healthcare system.^{2,3}

Objectives

- Primary Outcome: Improve medication non-adherence documentation by increasing utilization of the specialty non-adherence SmartPhrase within the EMR
- Secondary Outcome: Show improvement in Medication Possession Ratio (MPR) for specialty pharmacy patients⁴

MPR = (Sum of Days Supply in Time Frame) X 100 (Number of Days in Time Frame)

Methods

- Identified lack of adherence documentation in EMR
- Reviewed patients with low MRP
- Non-adherence SmartPhrase and workflow created
- Standardized workflow with a goal of increasing utilization
- Surveyed staff for feedback on updated SmartPhrase and workflow
- Completed retrospective review of SmartPhrase usage
- Only utilized 57 times from 5/1/22 to 9/30/22
- Implemented SmartPhrase workflow on 10/10/22
- Monitored usage over next 5 months

Workflow

Who is

alerted about

non-

adherence?

- Clinic

Pharmacist

- Clinic Staff

When are patients contacted:

- Starting 7 days before estimated due date
- Every 3 days

When is the SmartPhrase utilized:

- When patient is two weeks late to refill

What happens next?

- Clinic pharmacy team makes outreach
- 1 week later, remote Pharmacy makes outreach

If no response:

Patient is unenrolled from specialty services

Discussion

Impact: <

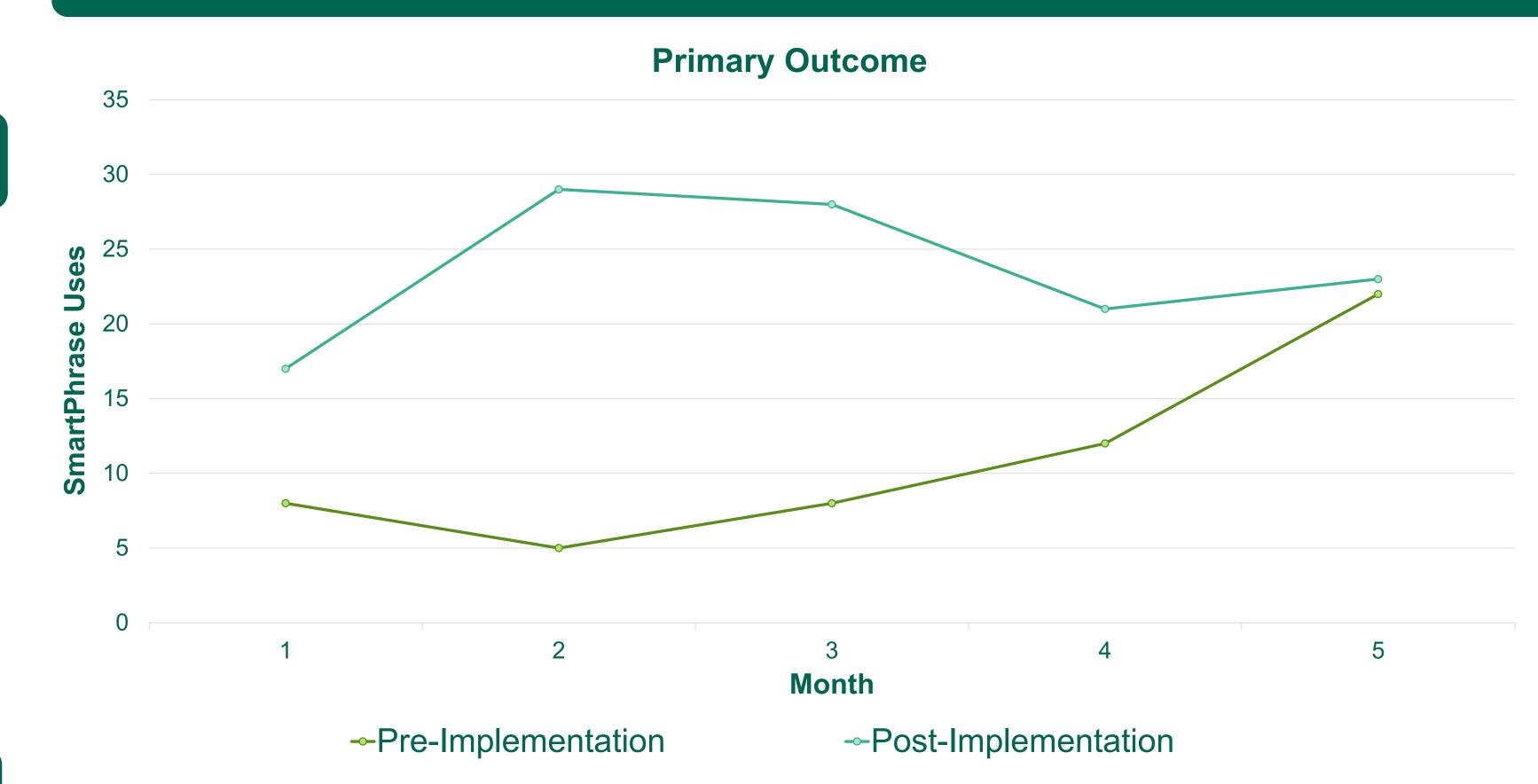
- Recaptured 58.49% of specialty pharmacy patients
- 76.42% were recaptured due to clinic team intervention
- Notable increase in patient follow-up after standardizing the adherence documentation and workflow
- Increase in interdepartmental communication regarding patient care
- Non-adherence SmartPhrase procedure was successful and implemented into departmental policy
- An MPR increase of 0.49% demonstrates positive impact this standardized practice has on adherence

Future:

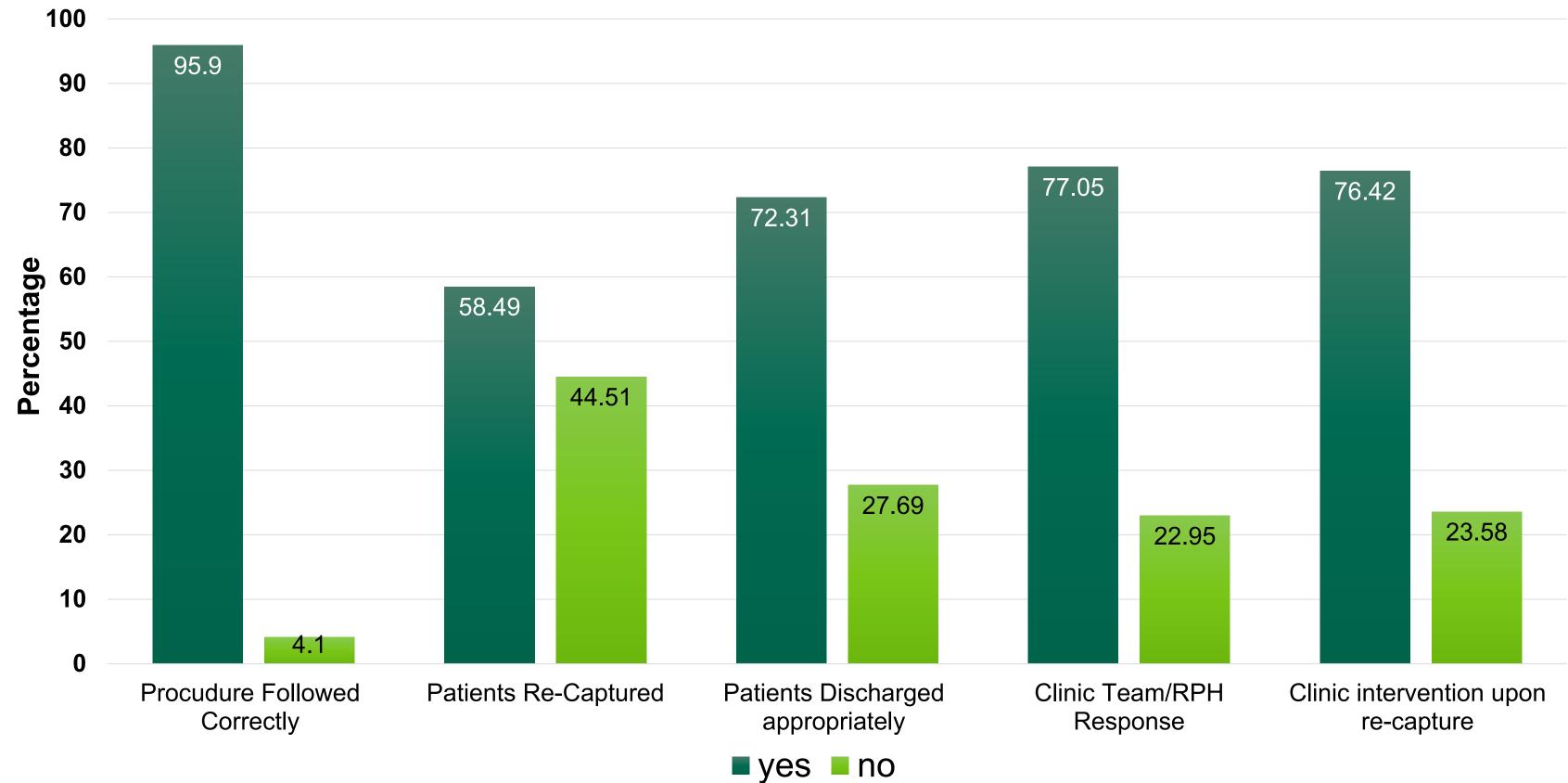
Outcomes:

 Standardized adherence documentation and workflow will continue to facilitate patient follow-up for improved adherence

Results



Reporting Outcomes



Primary Outcome: Percent increase in utilization of the Specialty Non-Adherence SmartPhrase

- Utilized 57 times before workflow implementation
- Sample size of 826 patients with MRP <95%
- Utilized 122 times after workflow implementation
- Sample size of 993 patients with an MRP <95%
- 78.12 % increase in workflow utilization

Secondary Outcome:

Improvement in the average MPR for specialty pharmacy patients

- Post implementation, the average MPR was 93.15%
- This shows an increase of 0.49% from pre implementation (92.66%)

Reporting Outcomes:

- Collected to track usage of new workflow
- Demonstrated proper usage of workflow and benefit of pharmacy intervention

Conclusion

Improving adherence leads to favorable outcomes and long-term healthcare savings. Increase in patient follow-up was seen after standardizing the adherence documentation and workflow. The goal MPR of 95% was not reached likely due to the time restraints of the study. However, an MPR increase of 0.49% demonstrates positive impact this standardized practice has on adherence. Standardized adherence documentation and workflow will continue to facilitate patient follow-up for improved adherence.

References

- 1) Timothy Aungst, P. (2018). Does Nonadherence Really Cost the Health Care System \$300 Billion Annually?
- 2) Andrea Neiman et al. (2022). Improving Medication Adherence for Chronic Disease Management Innovations and Opportunities
- 3) American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. (2020). Accreditation Standards for Specialty Pharmacy Practice.
- 4) Scott Canfield et al. (2019) Navigating the Wild West of Medication Adherence Reporting in Specialty Pharmacy

Disclosure

Authors of this presentation have nothing to disclose concerning possible financial or personal relationships with commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation.