



Community Pharmacist Perception and Utilization of a Pediatric Emergency Department Asthma Action Plan & Prescription

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BACKGROUND

- The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario's (CHEO) Emergency Department (ED) Asthma Action Plan and Prescription (AAPP) is a tool modified from best existing asthma action plans through the addition of a set of validated pediatric-specific pictograms.
- The AAPP is a quadruplicate form combining a prescription and instructions, with copies for the patient, pharmacist, medical chart and family physician.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess perceptions of community pharmacists regarding the appearance, content and usability of the AAPP as an educational resource.

METHODS

- In-person interviews were done with pharmacists working in pharmacies situated within a 10km radius of CHEO or other EDs of the Champlain LHIN that had adopted the AAPP for at least a three month period.
- A Likert scale questionnaire was used to survey community pharmacists regarding 1) their perception of the AAPP with respect to its appearance, content and usability as well as 2) their counselling practices relating to asthmatic patients.
- The questionnaire also contained open ended questions to elicit 1) general impressions of the AAPP and 2) any additional information that the pharmacist would recommend to add to enhance pediatric asthma counselling.

RESULTS

- 60 pharmacists were interviewed.
- 70% pharmacists had seen the AAPP.
- 80% or more of pharmacists answered positively (agree or strongly agree) to the questions about appearance, content and usability.
- Request for additional information to add information on aerochambers and aerochamber/MDI techniques (38 times out of 60 interviews).
- Other major themes (number of mentions):
 - The appearance of the AAPP(26)
 - The AAPP is clear(18)
 - The AAPP is confusing/overwhelming(12)
 - Comments pertaining to number of refills or quantity to dispense(12)
 - The zones/sections are effective at separating information(9).

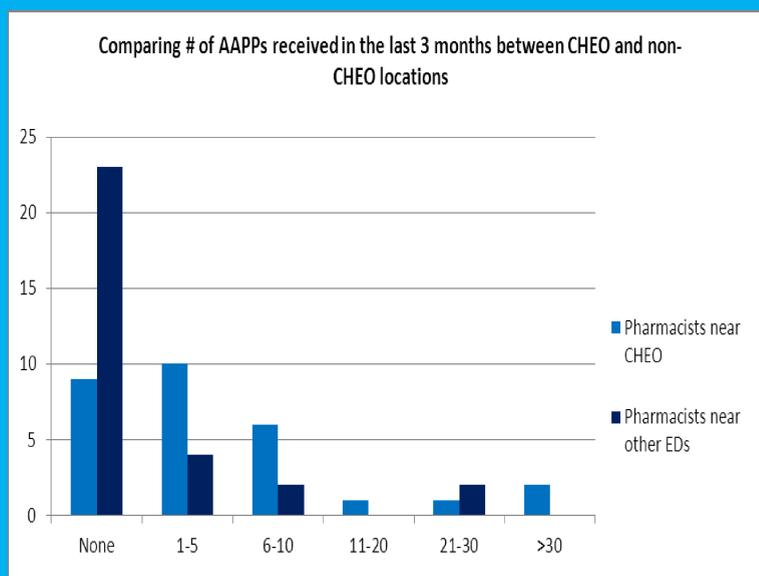


Figure 1: Comparison of the number of AAPPs received by pharmacists in the last 3 months in pharmacies within 10 km of CHEO (n=29) and in pharmacies within 10 km of other EDs using the AAPP (n=31).

Comparison of responses by pharmacists who had previously seen AAPP (A) and those who had not (B)

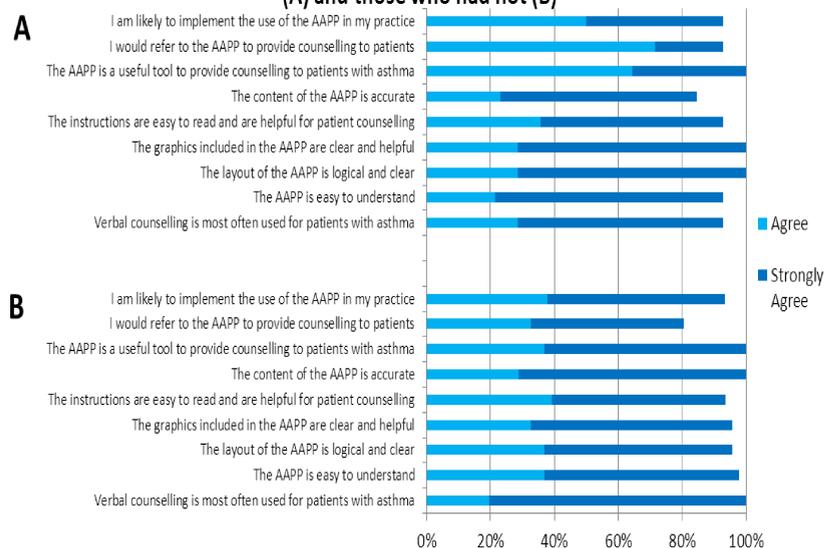


Figure 2: Comparison of responses by (A) the 46 pharmacists who had previously seen the AAPP and (B) the 14 pharmacists who had not seen the AAPP previously.

CONCLUSIONS

- Community pharmacists surveyed perceived the CHEO ED AAPP to be a useful resource for patient counselling based on its **appearance**, **content** and **usability** and indicated their willingness to refer to it and to use it as an educational.
- A majority of respondents **recommended the addition of information on aerochambers and aerochamber/MDI technique** to the AAPP.

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