

# Medicare Part D/Medication Therapy Management Health Fairs

## Western University of Health Sciences

### **Project Description & Implementation Overview**

Our AMCP chapter's annual Medicare Part D and Medication Therapy Management (MTM) health fairs are held annually to expose students to different aspects of managed care on a firsthand level. These health fairs are usually held during open enrollment from October to December. Each health fair involves participation from students, faculty, and community members. Participation from students is based on mandatory participation for one course and on a voluntary basis from other students. P1 students are exposed to the Medicare Part D aspect in an in class session and practice this during a health fair session. Students from other classes help P1 students with the Medicare Part D portions and practice MTM skills based on patient specific therapies. Faculty and preceptors also help aid with these activities and help to enroll patients in a Medicare Part D plan if it is found that one is appropriate for a patient.

### **Purpose of the Project**

The purpose of these health fairs is for students to become familiar with Medicare Part D and help patients find the best plan based on their specific medication therapies. In addition, it allows us to review patient medications and help ensure proper use and effectiveness. This allows students to practice their clinical knowledge and get an overall picture of ways in which students and pharmacists practice managed care in the community with the primary focus of enrolling patients in the most ideal prescription drug plan based on their needs.

### **Project Budget: Expenses and Revenues**

Most of the materials we use for these health fairs are either borrowed or sponsored by local organizations and fundraisers. The following are items we use during each health fair session: printers, paper, ink, laptops, USB drives, and portable Wi-Fi hot spots. We borrow supplies from our school the day of the events, which include printers, paper, ink, and portable Wi-Fi hot spots. Each student brings their own laptop and USB drive to the events to get access to the Medicare website. We try to solicit funds from local organizations and fundraise when possible to help cover some costs of the health fairs, such as site rentals. Tables and chairs are usually provided at the sites we attend. Other ways in which we minimize costs are when we try to use the internet at the site we are present at.

### **Who and How Many Chapter Members are Involved?**

Our AMCP chapter hosts these health fairs with planning and organization of the event mainly being the chapter officers and the chapter advisor along with people from the sites. Participation from P1 students are required to fulfill credits for a course. At least one advisor is present, that being either faculty members or community preceptors.

### **Who Should be Targeted? Audience or Involvement? How Do You Find Them? How Do You Contact?**

Our main audience were patients that are 65 years old and older as we were helping these patients enroll in Medicare Part D plans. General health fairs seemed to be unsuccessful as some

patients did not bring their medications which made it difficult to find an optimal plan for them. We reached out to the Council on Aging Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP). They were able to help with the planning process and were educated in aspects of Medicare Part D and open enrollment. We partnered with them to get sites and spread information to patients that we would arrive at certain sites to provide free services to help them with enrolling in Medicare Part D plans. We also try to contact senior living facilities and attend at times outside of open enrollment to provide just MTM services.

**What Materials are Needed? Outside Resources, Ordering, etc?**

Materials needed for these health fairs include laptops, USB drives, portable Wi-Fi hot spots, printers, ink, and paper. We also have packets we hand out to students that ask for information during the process of looking for Part D plans. Tables and chairs are also needed and are usually provided by the sites.

**Timeline for Implementation and Execution**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>
Summer 2016 (June to September)	Finding sites for health fairs	Chapter Advisor
October-December 2016	Advertising for health fairs to students	Director of Special Projects
October-December 2016	Sending in approval to Student Affairs for health fairs	Director of Special Projects
October-December 2016	Confirmation of participants/preceptors/translators for health fairs	Director of Special Projects
October-December 2016	Training of health fair participants in Medicare Part D	Chapter Advisor

We host about 5 health fairs during open enrollment and hold some MTM health fairs throughout the rest of the school year. Our chapter advisor and Director of Special Projects work closely to plan these health fairs. On the day of the event, the preceptor and chapter officers hosting the event arrive early to set up printers, tables, chairs, paperwork, and portable Wi-Fi hot spots. Students arrive about 15 minutes early to check in and set up their laptops to the internet and open the Medicare website. Each P1 student is partnered with either a P2, P3 or P4 student that can help with the Medicare Part D portion as well as perform MTM services. After assessing prescription drug plans for the patient, the best one is printed out and reviewed by a preceptor along with MTM related notes written down about each patient’s specific medication therapy and any recommendations to change, stop, or alter therapy. At that time, we may contact the patient’s pharmacy or physician to mention these recommendations. In addition, if another Medicare Part D plan is better than what a patient already has, we help switch the patient’s plan. Upon completion of the Medicare Part D and MTM services, a preceptor will review all information and sign off students.

## **Project Evaluation:**

### **What Went Well? What Didn't? How Would You Improve for the Next Year?**

#### What worked:

These annual health fairs showed to provide great benefit to patients and to students. Patients are provided with a thorough review of their current medications as well as Medicare Part D plans that are ideal for them. We noticed that we usually have a good turnout of students that sign up to participate in these health fairs. In addition, working with an agency such as HICAP was beneficial as they were able to handle complicated situations and any general Medicare/Medical related problems.

#### What didn't work:

Some things we noticed that did not work were that at times, patients did not bring all their medications or Medicare card with them. This was one big reason why general health fairs were not successful. Another thing we have seen that needs improvement are the number of translators we have and the number of pharmacists and/or preceptors there are that available as one pharmacist may have to split their time work oversee three different stations. Lastly, there are times when it is hard to find a site and ways in which we can advertise the event.