

Perceptions of Incorporating Social Determinants of Health in Pharmacy Curriculum and Its Impact on Practice

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BACKGROUND

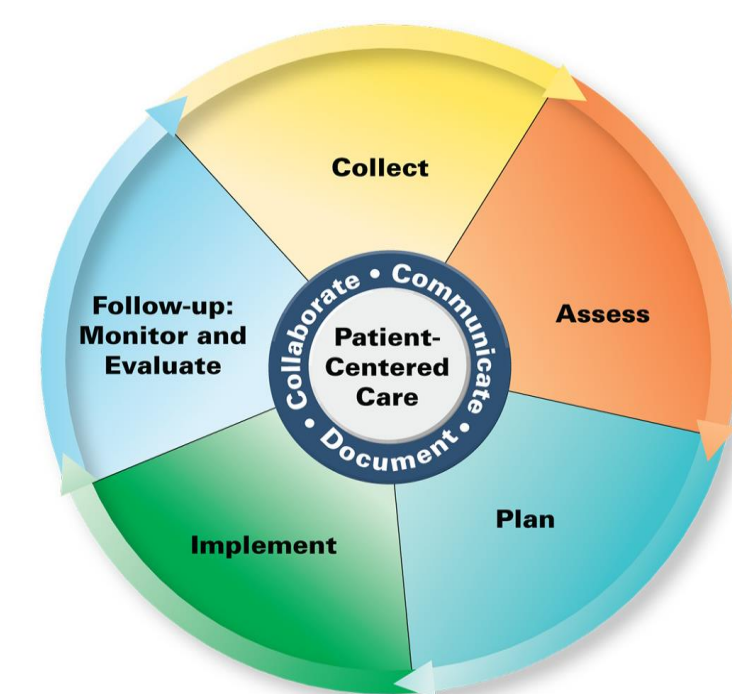
Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)

- SDoH are the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes.¹
 - Conditions in which people are born, grow, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life.¹
- SDoH have an important influence on health inequities.²
- Numerous studies have shown that SDoH can be more important than health care or lifestyle choices in influencing health.³⁻⁵



Pharmacists' Patient Care Process (PPCP)

- Established by the Joint Commission of Pharmacy Practitioners (JCPP), the PPCP serves as guidance for consistent delivery of patient care for pharmacists in all practice settings.⁶
- Pharmacists use a patient-centered approach in collaboration with other providers on the health care team to optimize patient health and medication outcomes.⁶



SDoH in Pharmacy Curriculum

- Although educational efforts have been made to train pharmacists in the recognition of SDoH concepts, pharmacists do not have a defined role.²
- There is more research that is needed to further conceptualize SDoH in PharmD programs to ensure that students are provided with a full understanding of SDoH and how these factors influence health outcomes.⁷

The Role of SDoH Concepts within the PPCP

Barriers⁷

OBJECTIVE

To analyze perceptions of the incorporation of SDoH in the pharmacy curriculum and its long-term impact on pharmacy practice.

METHODS

- IRB-approved: exempt
- Phenomenological qualitative research design

RESULTS

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Discussion

- A majority of participants reflected on their internship, APPEs, IPPEs, and prior work experience significantly influential in understanding the importance of the SDoH.
- Within community and retail pharmacy, an important practice is building a strong relationship with the patient in order to better understand what SDoH are impacting them specifically.
- Students and alumni see how it is important to integrate the SDoH within patient-centered care, as part of the PPCP.

Limitations

- Small sample at a Midwest, private school of pharmacy

Conclusions

- The combination of learning about SDOH concepts in the pharmacy curriculum and applying them in practice experiences could help students better integrate these elements in patient care.
- This could ultimately lead to better patient outcomes.

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