

September 14, 2006

RE: Sample Medications Collection Program for PIP/ADAPT

Since February 2006 the local physicians and nurse practitioner, as well as one locum physician, have been forwarding information regarding sample medications to Stueck Pharmacy using a standardized form. The standardized form is either faxed to the pharmacy or sent with the patient. The practitioner documents the name and strength of the sample given, as well as the quantity supplied and directions for use. The pharmacist then enters the information into the patient's profile as a deferred prescription and the notation "Physician Sample".

Currently medication samples are not captured by PIP or ADAPT thus depriving health care practitioners of a complete medication profile. A significant portion of hospitalizations occur due to iatrogenic causes thus one can surmise the introduction of a new medication may play a significant role in those hospitalizations due to undocumented drug interactions or adverse effects. It is acknowledged patient care can be compromised without complete information regarding the patient's medications. This project was undertaken in an attempt to get an indication of the amount and type of medication samples distributed by a typical medical clinic. This information is intended for the use of the PIP/ADAPT program in developing protocols for the handling of medication samples for the electronic patient record.

Over a seven month period the program collected information about 64 medication samples that were dispensed to patients. 36% of the samples were distributed by the nurse practitioner, 3% were distributed by the locum physician and the rest by the local physicians. Twenty-eight different drug types were distributed (see data), the five most common (over 5%) were proton-pump inhibitors (7.8%), inhaled corticosteroid/ $\beta_2$ -agonists (7.8%), statins (7.8%), oral contraceptives (9.4%), and ACE inhibitors (12.5%). The three disease states for which samples were most commonly given were hypertension, gastric-esophageal reflux disease/peptic ulcer disease, and asthma. Over three quarters of the patients to whom samples were given, were females (76.6%), and over half were aged fifty or greater (51.5%). For the most part the practitioners sent us sample prescriptions with all of the required information and as far as we know all sample medications were reported to the pharmacy, however, the number of reported sample medications peaked back in March.

Four months into our pilot program a survey was sent to the three local physicians and the nurse practitioner to get their thoughts and ideas on the program. Three of the four practitioners responded. All of the respondents felt that collection of medication sample information was important for seamless care and patient safety in regards to drug interactions and adverse drug reactions. Two of the respondents also felt that it was important to keep all applicable practitioners informed. None of the respondents felt that documentation took up too much time but all felt that they would be more willing to participate if a simple method of documentation was devised. As well, all three agreed that it would be most convenient if they could enter medication sample information directly into the patients' profiles on the PIP viewer. Two of the respondents commented that they would be more willing to enter information directly into PIP to obtain a more complete patient medication profile and so that data collection and analysis could be done.

Leah Wright, HBSoc., BSP student

Leader Health Clinic  
Leader, SK  
S0N 1H0

May 3, 2006

Dear Doctor #1:

Re: Medication Samples Collection Program for PIP

Thank you for your participation in the medication samples collection program implemented in February 2006 by pharmacy student Heather Balogh. In order to carry on this program and to make beneficial improvements I request that you continue to provide medication sample information to the pharmacy by faxing sample prescriptions or sending them with the patient. To ensure completeness and accuracy, please include **drug name, strength, quantity supplied, and directions for use.**

I am attaching a short survey regarding the medication samples collection program, I would appreciate if you could take the time to fill it out and return it to me. If you would prefer, I am available to discuss the program in person. I feel that this program is important and I would like to work with you to ensure convenience, timeliness and ease of reporting.

Please feel free to contact myself or Gordon at the pharmacy. I appreciate your cooperation and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Leah Wright, HBS, BSP student  
Stueck Pharmacy  
628-3744

c.c. Doctor #2  
Doctor #3  
Nurse Practitioner

Enclosures

**Prescription for SAMPLE MEDICATION  
Information collection for ADAPT/PIP records**

**Pharmacy:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Patient:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Drug Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Strength:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions for Use:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quantity Supplied:** \_\_\_\_\_

A sample of the above has been provided to this patient. Please record this information with ADAPT/PIP to ensure a complete medication history.

**MD/NP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prescription for SAMPLE MEDICATION  
Information collection for ADAPT/PIP records**

**Pharmacy:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Patient:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Drug Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Strength:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions for Use:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quantity Supplied:** \_\_\_\_\_

A sample of the above has been provided to this patient. Please record this information with ADAPT/PIP to ensure a complete medication history.

**MD/NP:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Medication Sample Collection Program Survey

Stueck Pharmacy, Leader, Saskatchewan

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Medication samples are dispensed by physicians and nurse practitioners as a trial prescription when patients are started on a new medication. Because these medications are given out in the health clinic or hospital there is no system of reporting the information to ADAPT/PIP, thus other health care practitioners do not have access to the information. Collection of medication sample information is important in order to have a complete patient profile which is necessary for continuity of care and ultimately patient safety; to prevent drug interactions and to identify adverse drug reactions. Studies have shown that adverse drug reactions are likely to occur within the initial days of commencing a new medication, thus it is important that medication sample information be documented in a location that is easily and readily accessible. Collaboration between physicians, nurse practitioners and pharmacists is necessary in order to maintain a collection and documentation program. This survey is designed to increase participation by determining the needs of all parties involved.

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**1. Do you feel that the collection of medication sample information is important?**

- a. Yes      b. No

**2. If you answered YES, please circle all reasons why you feel the collection of medication sample information is necessary:**

- a. Seamless patient care
- b. Patient safety to prevent drug interactions
- c. Patient safety to identify adverse drug reactions
- d. Professional courtesy to keep all practitioners informed
- e. Patient satisfaction

**3. If you answered NO, please circle all reasons why you feel collection of medication sample information is unnecessary:**

- a. Patient safety is not jeopardized because the physician/nurse practitioner has a record of medication samples
- b. Time consumption outweighs any perceived benefit
- c. Outside of pharmacist/pharmacy's scope of practice

**4. The medication sample information collected thus far includes a wide range of medications from antihypertensives to oral contraceptives to OTC products. Do you think that it is necessary to collect information about all medication samples regardless of drug class?**

- a. Yes      b. No      c. It depends on the drug class.

**Which drug classes should be collected?**

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**5. Do you find that documentation of medication samples takes up a significant portion of your time?**

- a. **Yes**, but it is important to document
- b. **Yes**, the time wasted isn't worth the effort
- c. **No**, it is not trouble to do
- d. **No**, but the time wasted still isn't worth the effort

**6. Would you be more willing to document medication samples if a simpler method was devised?**

- a. Yes
- b. No

**7. Would entering medication sample information directly into PIP once electronic prescribing is in place be more convenient?**

- a. Yes
- b. No

**8. Would you be willing to enter medication sample information into PIP even if you don't want to send documentation to the pharmacy now? Why or why not?**

- a. Yes \_\_\_\_\_
- b. No \_\_\_\_\_

**9. Are you interested in working with a pharmacy student to develop a method of informing the pharmacy about medication samples that would be more convenient and less time consuming to the physician/nurse practitioner?**

- a. Yes
- b. No

**10. Do you have any comments, suggestion, or ideas for improving the medication collection program?**

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Survey Results June 2006		Number of Respondents
Number of Surveys	Returned	3
	Not Returned	1
1. Is collection of medication sample information important?	Yes	3
	No	0
2. Why is collection necessary?	Seamless Care	3
	Patient Safety - DI	3
	Patient Safety - ADRs	3
	To keep all practitioners informed	2
	Patient Satisfaction	0
3. Is it necessary to collect information about all drug classes (including OTCs)	Yes	2
	No	
	Depends on Class	1
4. Which classes should be collected?		1
		antihypertensives, OHA, lipid/cholesterol reducers, antidepressants, antipsychotics, habit forming medications, antibiotics
5. Does documentation take up lots of time?	Yes, but important	0
	Yes, waste of time	0
	No	3
	No, but still waste of time	0
6. Would you be more willing to document if there was a simpler method?	Yes	3
	No	0
7. Would entering medication sample info directly into PIP be more convenient?	Yes	3
	No	0
8. Why would you be more willing to enter info directly into PIP?	2 of 3	Data collection & analysis could be done, for complete medication profile
9. Are you interested in working with a student to develop a method of informing the pharmacy about medication samples that would be convenient to do?	Yes	2
	No	1
10. Comments	1 of 3	This is a good beginning