



# Partnering With Pharmacists

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# Introduction

**Gordon Stueck, owner/manager of Stueck Pharmacy, has always been an innovative pharmacist and businessman. He was intent on continuing to be a “leader” in the profession by hiring a Primary Care Pharmacist. Leah Butt, BSP began as an employee pharmacist in June 2007. She soon found herself practicing part-time in the store as a dispensing pharmacist and part-time at Leader Primary Health Care Centre.**

# Team Members

- **Pharmacist**
- **Nurse Practitioner**
- **3 Salaried Physicians**
- **Public Health Nurse**
- **Mental Health**
- **Home Care**
- **Office Assistants**
- **Nurse Manager**
- **Dietician**
- **Registered/Licensed Practical Nurses**
- **Occupational/Physical Therapy**
- **Speech/Language Pathology**

# Public Education

- **Community forum on head lice with public health nurse**
- **Public forum on Gardasil and HPV with public health nurse and nurse practitioner**
- **Student presentation to diabetes education class on “portion control and The Diet Plate®”**
- **Booth at women’s health forum; using The Diet Plate® for weight loss and portion control**

# Academic Detailing

- **Synopses of new drug products provided to physicians and nurse practitioners; including efficacy & safety data, formulary status, and cost**
  - **Exubera**
  - **Gardasil**
  - **Rasilez**
  - **Cymbalta**
  - **Januvia**
  - **Seasonale**

# Chart Reviews

- **Review of charts belonging to 32 patients enrolled in the Health Quality Council's Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) collaborative**
- **Initial and three-month follow-up reviews**
- **Measurable data included systolic and diastolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, LDL, HDL, TC:HDL ratio, statin and antiplatelet use**
- **Recommendations noted in patients' charts**

# Medication Reviews

- **Patients are self-referred, randomly chosen or referred by other members of the team**
- **Chart review prior to appointment**
- **Identify DRPs, areas not at target, patient concerns**
- **Discuss medication review with patient, determine course of action and consult with health care practitioner**

# Drug Expertise

- **Academic detailing**
- **Drug information requests**
- **Therapeutic recommendations**
- **Patient referrals**
- **Consultations:**
  - **Drug Therapy**
  - **Antibiotic Dosing**
  - **Drug Interactions**
  - **Insulin therapy modifications and initialization**

# Long-Term Care

- **Medication reviews every three months as per health region contract**
- **Weekly rounds with the physician and charge nurse**
- **Medication reconciliation for new residents**
- **Educational material and/or in-services provided to the facility's staff (RNs, LPNs, & SCAs);**
  - **Clarification of drug products used for bowel care**
  - **List of medications which cannot be crushed**
  - **Monitoring parameters for digoxin and warfarin toxicity**

# Hospital Rounds

- **Staff don't regularly check that drugs and doses are appropriate based on the patients' medications medical conditions, and renal/hepatic function**
- **Medication reconciliation for new admissions**
- **In a 2 month period several interventions occurred:**
  - **Calculation of  $Cl_{CR}$  and adjustment of dose of IV antibiotics**
  - **Medication reconciliation**
  - **Educational material and/or in-services provided to the facility's staff**
    - **Creatinine clearance and renal dosage adjustment**
    - **UTI therapies**

# INR Monitoring

- **Roche CoaguChek® certified testing center; category nine lab license**
- **Provide in-home INR testing to elderly patients who are unable to get to the lab and in-pharmacy INR testing to out-of-town patients**
- **INR results sent to the physician for dose adjustments**
- **\$20 charge per test**
- **Saves time for patients and health care providers and increases compliance**

# Gastrointestinal Disease Monitoring

- **Daily tracking of OTC sales for gastrointestinal symptoms**
- **Gravol, Imodium, Pedialyte, PeptoBismol, etc.**
- **Observance of sales spikes above norm**
- **Notify Dr. Chokani, Medical Health Office, Cypress Health Region of suspected gastrointestinal outbreak**

# Champix® Survey

- **Champix® is commonly prescribed in our area**
- **Designed a survey to determine efficacy and overall patient satisfaction**
- **Sent surveys to 40 patients; 10 were returned**
- **50% of respondents were abstinent at 9-12 weeks**
- **Most common side effects were nausea, headaches, difficulty sleeping, strange dreams; one patient reported increased aggression**

# Proton Pump Inhibitor Study

- **Study designed by two 4th year students**
- **A number of patients are needlessly taking PPIs for conditions that have been resolved**
  - HP Pac therapy
  - Extension of hospital initiated PPI
  - Healed ulcer
- **Determine the reason for PPI use and where appropriate (in conjunction with the physician), encourage the patient to taper off of the PPI**
- **Patients are asked to keep track of their progress for 3 weeks**
- **To date 240 patients taking PPIs have been identified**
  - 45 patients have been approached
  - 28 patients have been eligible for discontinuation

# Conclusion

**From the beginning this project was well received by all members of the Primary Health Care Team. The pharmacist's wages are currently covered in full by Stueck Pharmacy. In Fall 2007, Leah was approached by Cypress RHA's Primary Care Coordinator with a request to forward a contract proposal. The finalized proposal was submitted in Nov 2007. Approval is awaited; however, we have been notified that funding will likely be approved only for a part-time position that will be based strictly out of Leader Primary Health Care Centre and acute and long-term care will not be involved.**