CORRELATES OF RED FLAGS FOUND BY PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAMS (PMP) IN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SETTINGS

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Background

• PMP are state-administered databases that provide reports on individuals’ controlled Rx drug histories, used throughout the US and Canada.

• Aim: identify correlates of PMP red flags and influence on prescriber practices

Methods

• Cross-sectional card study

• Participants were local prescribers (psychiatrists and APNs) at 5 CMHC sites.

• Data collected on consecutive patient visits for whom a PMP report was run, over a period of 3 months

• Patient demographic and clinical variables were tested for association with “Red Flags”

• Statistical analysis: Descriptive and chi-square

References


4. State Medical Board of Ohio. http://med.ohio.gov. The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Results

Provider Characteristics

• 64% physicians, 36% APNs

• 58% Caucasian, 27% Asian

• Of 42 providers enrolled, 33 returned 249 cards

Patient Characteristics

• Patients: mostly female (66%) and white (63%), with mean age of 48. Majority were considered adherent and had been seen for >1 year.

• Over 1/3 reported any addictive disorder (38%) or a diagnosis of chronic pain (34%)

Red Flags (Figure 1)

• 1 in 5 had red flags

• Most common: multiple prescribers, pharmacies

Correlates of Red Flags (Figure 2)

• Red flags more likely with non-AA race, poor adherence, chronic pain disorder, and prescription of opioid

• No association with gender, addiction diagnosis, or prescription of benzodiazepine/stimulant

Impact of Red Flags (Figure 3)

• Lower prescribing rates of controlled substances

• Decrease in dosage of controlled substances

• Increased frequency of patient visits

Discussion

• First study in community mental health setting

• Limited by small sample size and missing data

• Clinical Implications: Increased clinician vigilance and use of PMP when prescribing controlled substances to high-risk patients

• Future study: further characterize red flag epidemiology; develop guidelines to enhance prescriber decision-making