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Title: *Illinois Pharmacists and Over the Counter Cannabidiol Products: A Survey on Knowledge and Educational Needs*

Abstract

Objective

To evaluate pharmacists' knowledge of over the counter cannabinoid containing products (OTC-CBD) and assess pharmacists' interest in additional education about these products.

Design

This observational cross-sectional study used a quantitative survey to obtain information about Illinois pharmacists' knowledge on OTC-CBD products. Survey questions were based on prior research and pilot tested for clarity and completeness. The survey obtained demographic information, OTC-CBD product knowledge, concerns and competency in selling OTC-CBD products, and current and future OTC- CBD educational needs. Descriptive statistics were utilized to assess all data.

Setting and Participants

The study researchers collaborated with two state-based pharmacy organizations to distribute the survey online with up to two reminders.

Results

A total of 181 participants completed the survey. Majority of the respondents (60.3%) were 31-60 years of age, about 22% worked for 11 to 20 years as a pharmacist with a similar amount working less than 5 years (21%). About 41% worked in hospital-based practice setting and 39.2% work in a community-based setting. Most pharmacists (64.1%) reported ever being asked about the safety or efficacy of cannabidiol containing products, and only 20.7% responded that they felt moderately/highly prepared to provide medication counseling to patients who use OTC-CBD products. Majority of respondents reported being concerned about safety, quality, and regulations related to OTC-CBD products. Almost all respondents indicated information about state (90.5%) and federal (89.4%) laws related to CBD, and safety (99.5%) are preferred topics for future education.

Conclusions

Consumers are seeking information about CBD containing products; however, many pharmacists do not feel prepared when it comes to being the drug expert for these products. Educational opportunities are necessary for pharmacists to become more comfortable and knowledgeable regarding safe and effective use of CBD-OTC containing products.