

## **PHARMACIST IMPACT ON PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WITHIN A MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED PRIMARY CARE CLINIC.**

Paige Collick, Cassie Heffern, Chelsea Landgraf, Karrie Derenski, CoxHealth, 3801 S National Ave., Springfield, MO 65807. [paige.collick@coxhealth.com](mailto:paige.collick@coxhealth.com)

Millions of Americans lack health insurance and have limited access to prescription medications. Uninsured adults often delay therapy or do not get a needed prescription medication due to cost. In addition, this population often misses regular physician check-ups because of cost. These two problems cause an increased risk for hospitalizations and emergency department visits that could be prevented. Fortunately, manufacturers have allowed qualified individuals access to medications through prescription assistance programs.

The purpose of this study is to assess the impact of a pharmacist working under a collaborative practice agreement (CPA) on prescription assistance programs within a medically underserved clinic.

This is a single center, retrospective chart review including patients of a medically underserved primary care clinic, without any form of insurance or prescription drug coverage, enrolled in a community health system's medication access program both prior to and after implementation of a pharmacist CPA. The primary outcome measure is the number of hospitalizations and emergency department visits pre- and post-pharmacist CPA initiation. Other data that will be collected pre- and post-pharmacist CPA, if applicable, includes: disease state improvement such as, change in hemoglobin A1C, blood pressure and cholesterol values; the number and type of medication therapy management interventions; and medication possession rates.

The results of the study will be used to confirm the impact of pharmacists in underserved primary care clinics and used to implement changes to improve patient care throughout other primary care clinics.

### **Learning Objective:**

- Identify pharmacist role with prescription assistance programs to help improve patient care in underserved populations