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Implementation of Community Pharmacy Dispensing Software (MyDispense) in an Advanced Pharmacy Practice Course

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Objective

- The objective of this study was to evaluate the usefulness and applicability of the MyDispense program into a required course.

Background

- Proficiency in the medication use process remains a critical part of pharmacy practice. Full time pharmacists in the United States spent nearly 50% of their workday on patient care services associated with medication dispensing according to the 2014 national pharmacist workforce survey.¹

- Approximately 44% of the United States workforce practices in a community pharmacy setting (including independent, small chain, large chain, mass merchandizer, and supermarket settings).^{1,2}

- In 2011, Monash University implemented MyDispense into their curriculum.³ MyDispense is a simulated learning environment where students can develop and practice the necessary skills to accurately and safely dispense medications to patients in the community pharmacy setting.

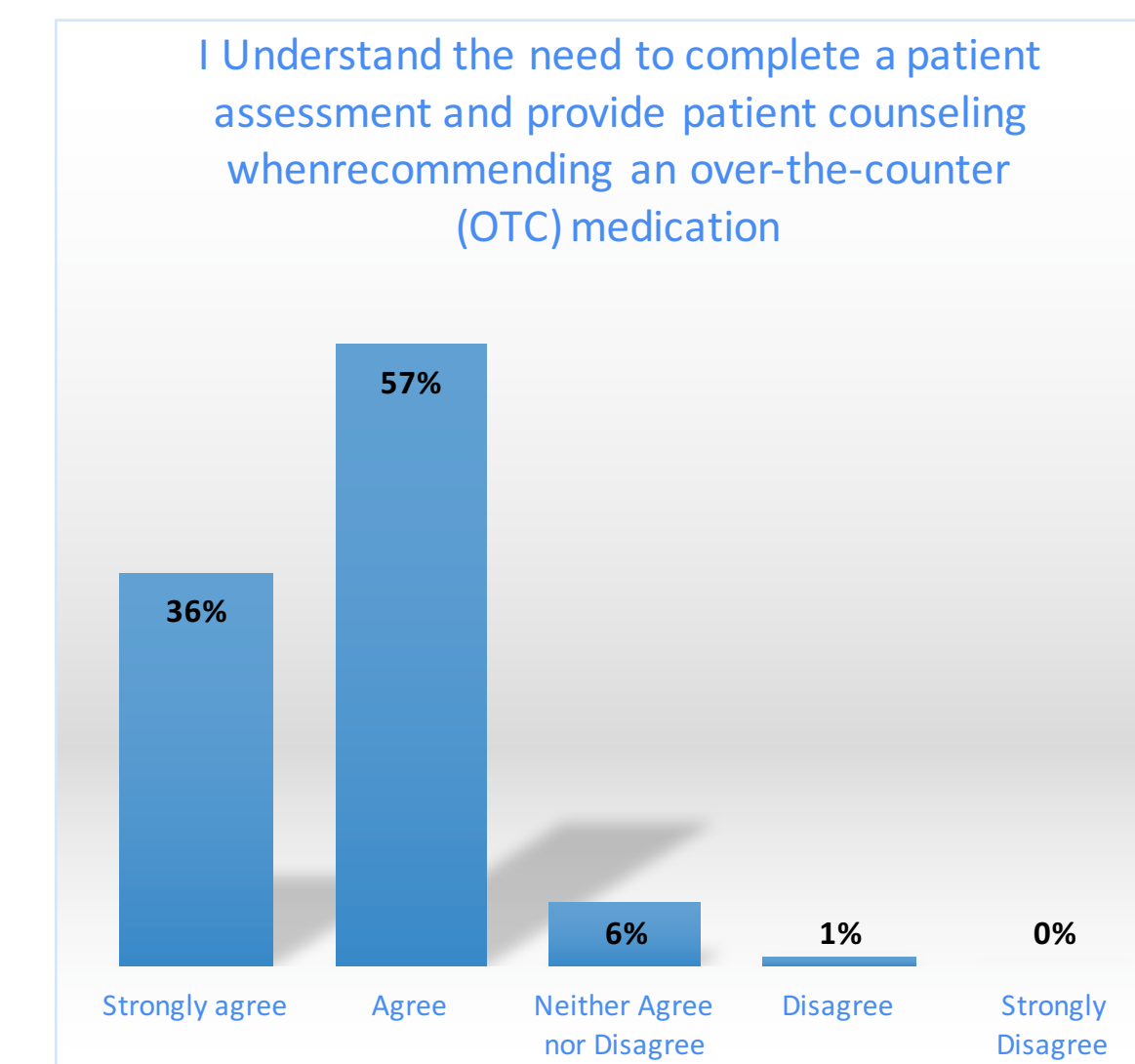
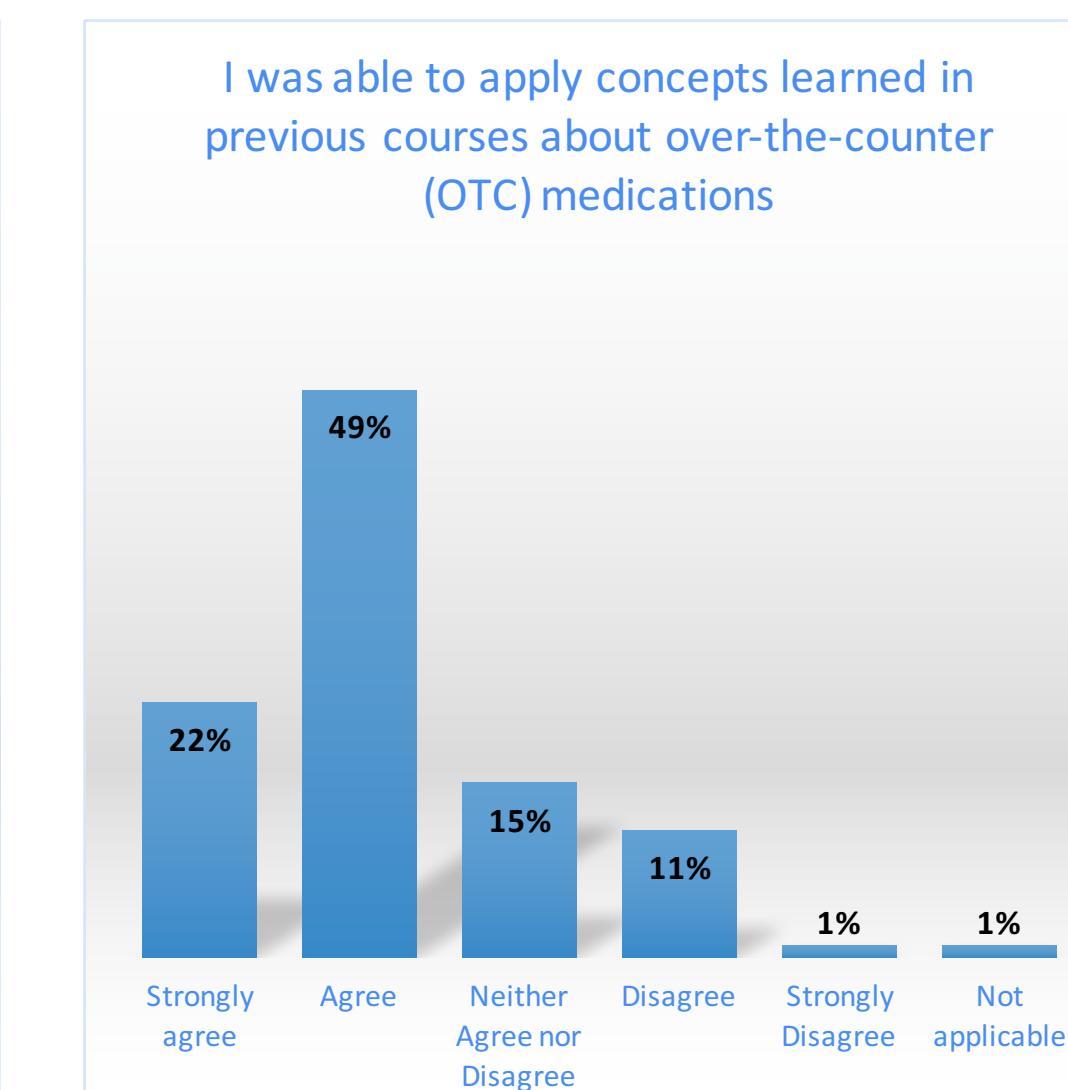
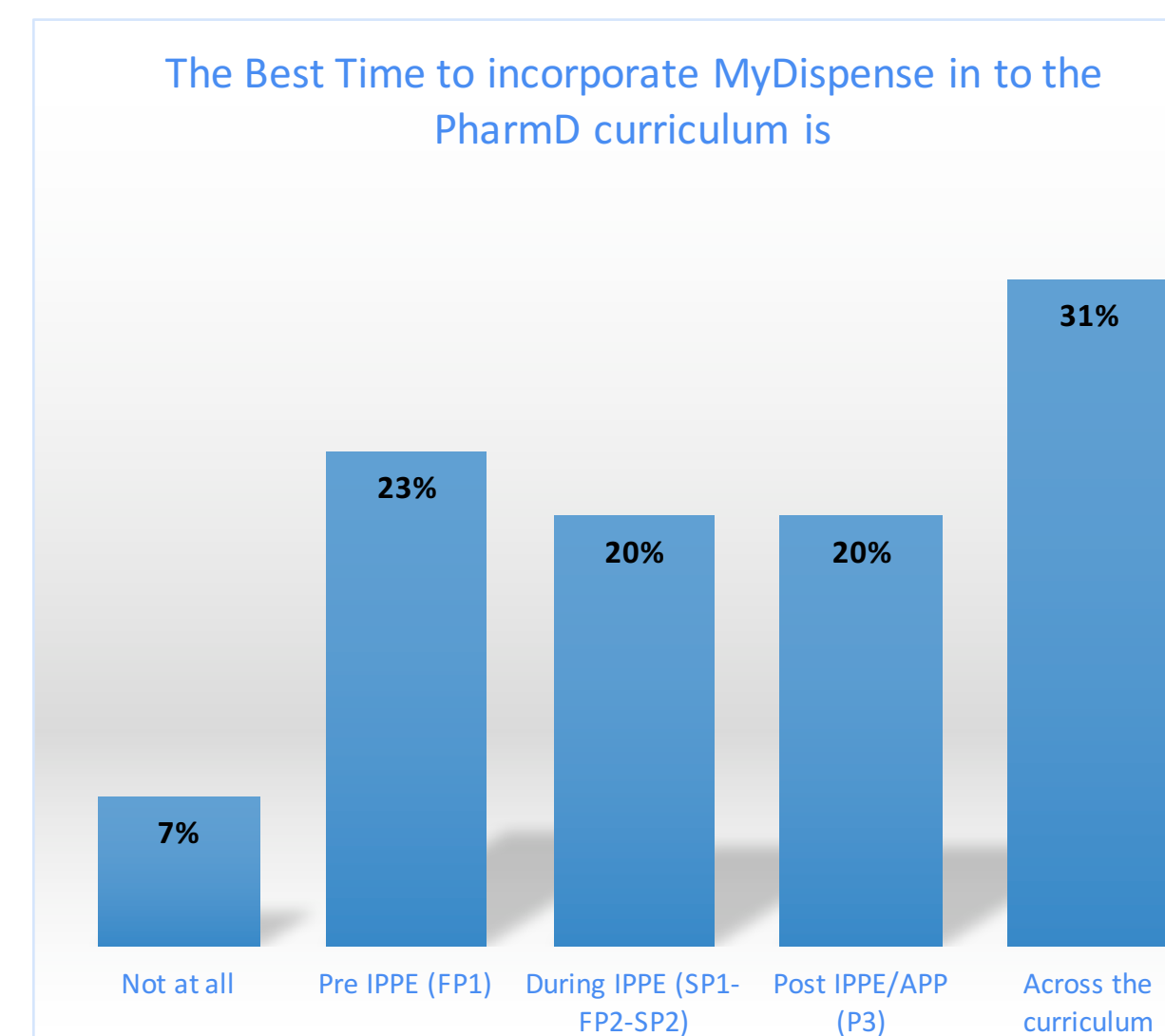
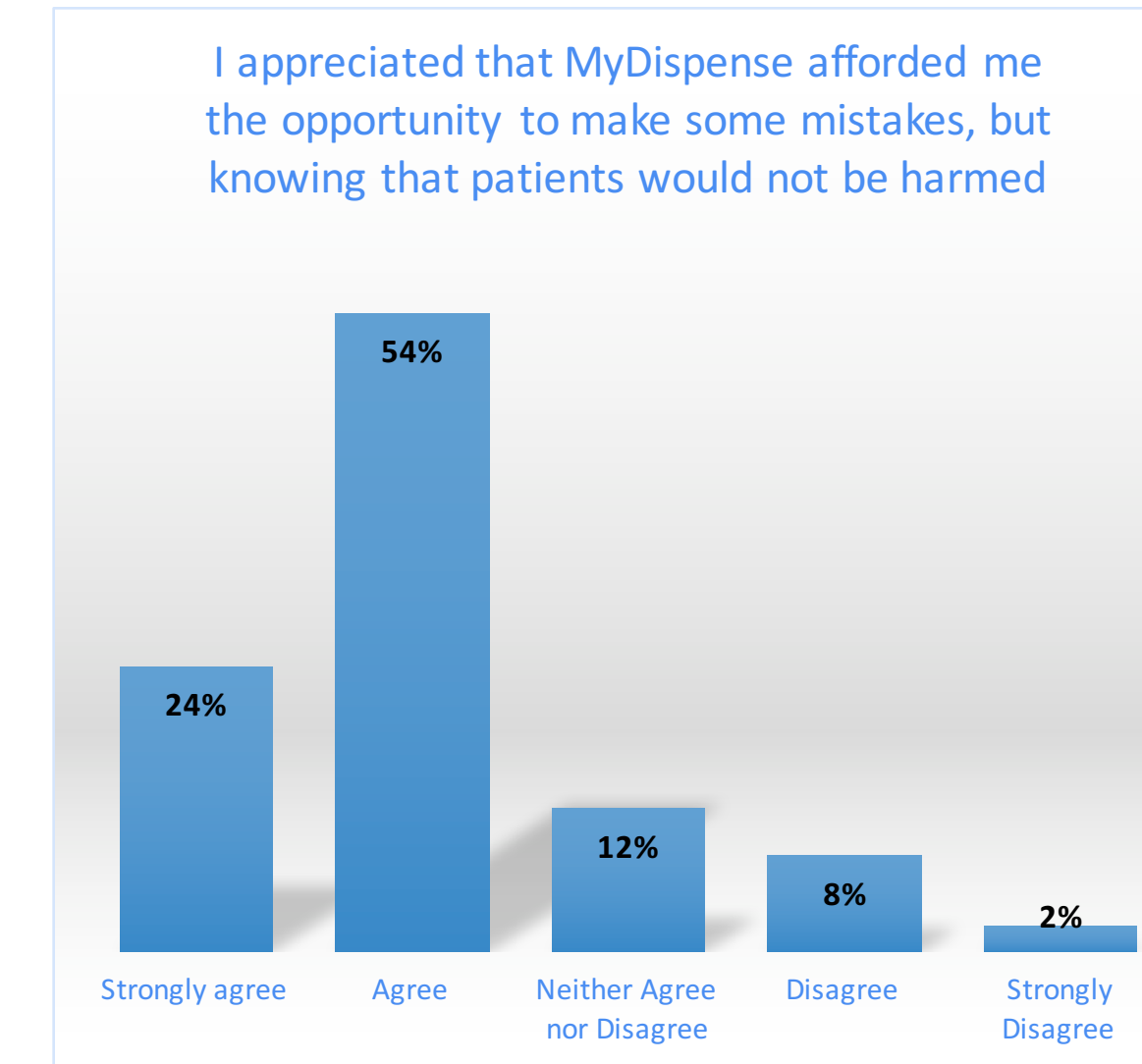
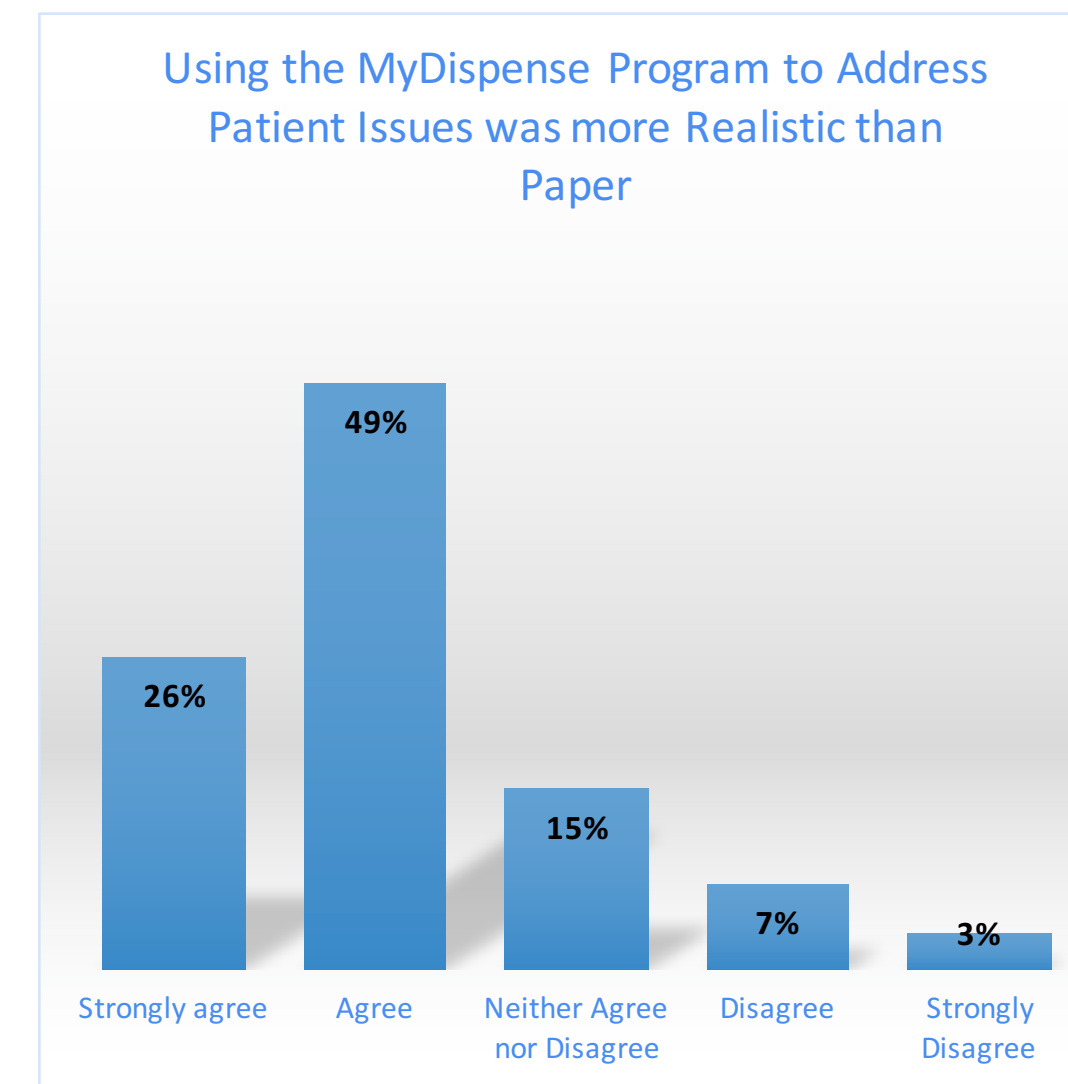
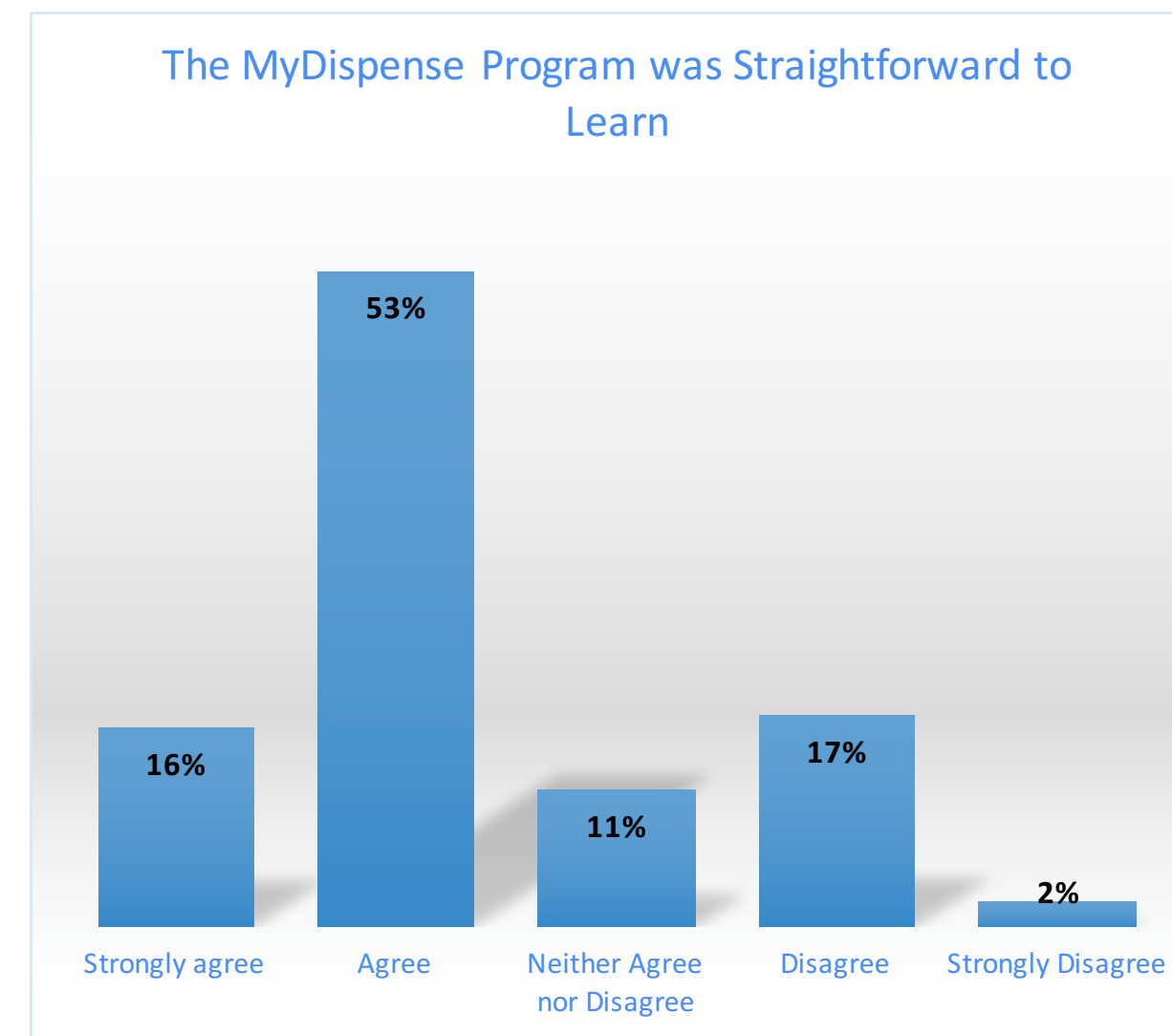
Methods

- The US adaptation process was initially completed collaboratively by Monash University, the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) and University of Connecticut (UConn) Schools of Pharmacy. Mid-development, faculty from St. Louis College of Pharmacy (STLCOP) join in the adaptation process.

- MyDispense was implemented in the Advanced Pharmacy Practice course at STLCOP during the P3 year as an activity and assessment for competency in the community pharmacy setting.

- The study consisted of an anonymous online survey available to students in the Advanced Pharmacy Practice course for two weeks following completion of the program. The survey was designed to evaluate the usefulness of the MyDispense online pharmacy simulated learning environment implemented during the course of the semester.

Results



Qualitative Responses

One thing I learned from participating in the MyDispense activities I completed was:

"It was very, very similar to the type of work that a pharmacist does at my retail pharmacy."

"Patients will not always give you the straightforward answers that you are looking for; sometimes you have to dig deeper."

"Some questions aren't applicable to some patients."

"Counseling patients is a very important aspect of pharmacy practice and should be implemented during every patient visit for a prescription fill, if possible."

"Importance of asking questions and verifying information with doctor"

"I learned how to correctly check a filled prescription in a different media which was more helpful than role playing with a student peer."

"I learned to look at a patients profile a little more closely to see adherence and drug interactions."

What difficulties did you encounter with the program or what elements did you feel the program lacked?

"It was a [difficult] at first, but if there wasn't a step-by-step sheet to guide me through the program the first time, it could have been very difficult and overwhelming to navigate through the program."

"The auxiliary labels were really hard to read. The program was hard to use at first, but once got the hang of it was a little better (by end of lab)"

"Honestly one thing that I wished I would have seen more on MyDispense was insurance. I am not sure how that could be incorporated in, but it is one thing that we deal with a lot in the community setting."

"I think this is a neat and useful tool for pharmacy students to learn before their community pharmacy rotation, especially for those who have never had experience in a community pharmacy before."

"[...]I think this would be extremely beneficial especially considering how many students do not work prior to graduation or IPPE community rotations."

Discussion

- Students' overall perception of MyDispense was not affected by previous community pharmacy experience ($p = 0.17$).

- This study to evaluates the impact of MyDispense with a cohort of P3 students in an Advanced Pharmacy Practice course. This data can be used to help implement MyDispense in other pharmacy school curricula.

Implications

- In the 2016 update, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) reinforces one of the key elements for pharmacy practice as medication use systems management; specifically, pharmacy graduates should be "able to manage healthcare needs using human, financial, technological, and physical resources to optimize the safety and efficacy of medication use systems."⁴

- The release of MyDispense in the US has resulted in adoption of the software by fifteen other US schools of pharmacy, including UK, and this number continues to grow as other universities experiment with its utility in their curricula.

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Screenshots

