



Utah pharmacists' qualitative feedback regarding licensure standards

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Objective

Licensing models within the profession of pharmacy vary from state to state as to renewal period, intern hours for competency, and continuing education models. Universal licensure has been a recent push for pharmacists, with initiatives like NABP's multistate licensure resolution.¹ The purpose of this study was to examine the attitudes and perceptions of licensed Utah pharmacists regarding pharmacist licensure.

Methods

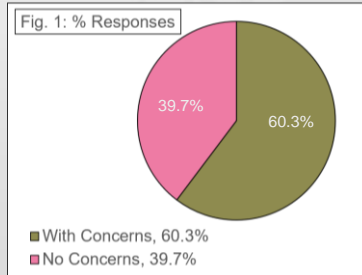
- 15 question Qualtrics® XM survey created to collect demographic information, attitudes and perceptions about pharmacist licensure. Survey sent electronically to 4154 Utah pharmacists over 1 month period.
- 2 open-ended questions permitted qualitative feedback
- Quantitative feedback responses reported separately. Analysis of qualitative responses was conducted by multiple investigators using color-coding, independent theme identification, and Microsoft® Excel®. All data analysis used descriptive statistics.

Q14 "What concerns do you have, or comments would you like to share about pharmacist licensure in the state of Utah?"

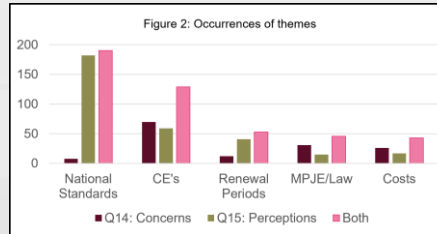
Q15 "What are your perceptions of states having variations in intern hours, renewal periods, and continuing education requirements for pharmacist licensure?"

Results

- Surveys were completed by 972 licensed pharmacists, 23% of all Utah pharmacists
- The survey instrument recorded 824 responses for both qualitative feedback questions
- Feedback identified for both questions included those respondents with concerns/perceptions around licensure (60.3%), and those without (39.7%). [Fig. 1]



- Of total respondents (n=824) concerns/perceptions included themes of desire for national standards (216, 26%), feedback around Continuing Education (CE) (124, 15%), renewal periods (63, 7.6%), MPJE/law (44, 5.3%), and costs (40, 4.9%). [Fig. 2]
- Sub-categories within themes differed for each question and some qualitative feedback included multiple themes or sub-categories. [Table 1, Table 2]



Subcategory	Count
Live CE's	42
Scope of practice	20
Department of Occupational and Professional Licensing/Board of Pharmacy	18
Competency	7

Subcategory	Count
Scope of practice	35
Competency	20
Unsure/Not informed	19
Intern Hours	16
Live CE's	11
Impact upon patient care	6

Conclusion

Existing literature was void of qualitative data from pharmacists about licensure standards. Qualitative feedback data showed that 60.3% of respondents had concerns/perceptions about licensing standards versus 39.7% with no concerns/perceptions.

This project's largest limitation was only including commentary from pharmacists licensed in Utah. Another limitation was the wording on Q15 which introduced too many ideas, resulting in inconsistent data and increase in sub-categories.

Future expansion of data collection nationwide would lend strength to the trends established by this study and provide a basis for a national conversation on licensing standards.

Disclosures & Contact Information

Roseman University Institutional Review Board (IRB) exemption. The authors have nothing to disclose concerning possible financial or personal relationships with commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation.

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Additional Information & References

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