

Point for Change: Bridging Patient Care and Advocacy in Student-Led Point-of-Care Testing (POCT) Events

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Objective: Assess student pharmacists' awareness, confidence, and knowledge of reimbursement for pharmacist-provided services under Medicare Part B and Ohio Medicaid before and after community POCT events.

Background and Methods:

Despite demonstrating both clinical and cost-effectiveness, pharmacists remain excluded from federal reimbursement for cognitive services under Medicare Part B. Advocacy has historically been critical in achieving provider recognition for other health professionals.¹ Student-led POCT events offer a patient-centered opportunity to deliver care while educating the public about pharmacist services and health policy, addressing limited advocacy engagement among pharmacy students.

Researchers developed educational materials for use during student-led POCT events conducted at The Ohio State University Student Wellness Center and community partner sites from May 2025 to February 2026.

Before POCT Event

- Student pharmacists emailed educational materials and Qualtrics™ survey 1 week prior to POCT event.
- Student pharmacists completed voluntary, anonymous Qualtrics™ survey before participating in community POCT events and viewing educational materials.

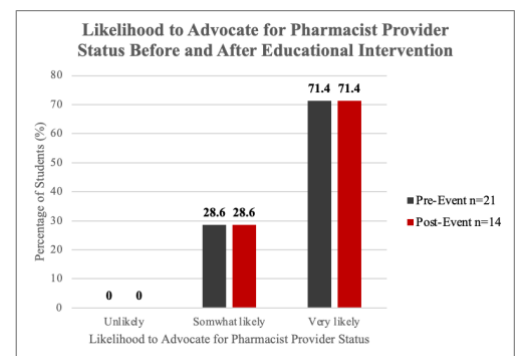
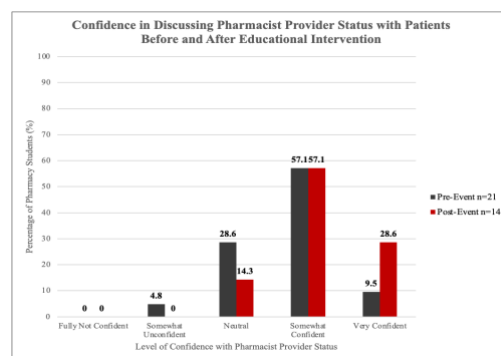
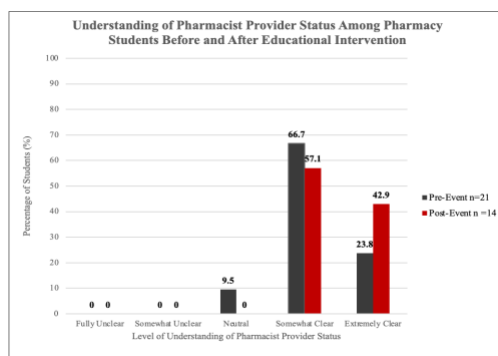
POCT Event

- Students engaged patients in brief educational conversations about reimbursement for pharmacy services using handout.
- Patients receiving screening services were invited to complete a separate voluntary, anonymous Qualtrics™ survey.

After POCT Event

- Student pharmacists administered the same Qualtrics™ survey after viewing the educational materials and upon completion of their POCT event.
- \$5 electronic gift card distributed to students completing both surveys.

Results:



- Integrating advocacy education into student-led POCT events can enhance student pharmacists' knowledge and confidence in discussing pharmacist services while increasing patient awareness of pharmacist provider status.
- Although the small patient sample limits generalizability, community health outreach programs can serve as platforms for engaging students and patients in policy.