OPERATION
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS
APhA ACADEMY OF STUDENT PHARMACISTS

Assessing Community Pharmacist Comfort and Willingness to Provide Long-Acting Injectable Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)

Sarah Abib, PharmD*†, Paul Gaura, PharmD, BCACP, APh*, Alexis Tran, PharmD*, Sarah McBane, PharmD, BCPS, FCCP,FCPhA, FCSHP, APh †, Jeff Hamper, PharmD, BCACP*, Heather Hopkins, PharmD*
*Albertsons Companies; †University of California, Irvine

Introduction

- Opioid use disorder (OUD) is a major public health challenge, with recurrence rates of approximately 40–60% within the first year of recovery due to stigma, poor adherence, and limited access to treatment.[1,2]
- FDA approved Long-Acting Injectable (LAI) medications such as naltrexone extended-release (Vivitrol®) and buprenorphine extended-release (Sublocade® and Brixadi®), have demonstrated effectiveness in improving treatment adherence and reducing recurrence risk.[3]
- These agents improve adherence by providing extended therapeutic coverage and maintaining stable plasma concentrations over weekly or monthly dosing intervals.[2]
- Despite their clinical benefits, LAI Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) remain underutilized in community settings.[3]
- Community pharmacists, as highly accessible healthcare professionals, are well positioned to expand patient access to treatment through counseling, education, and administration of LAI MOUD.[4]

Objectives

- **Primary Objective:**
  - To assess baseline knowledge gaps and evaluate changes in community pharmacists' comfort and willingness to counsel and administer LAI MOUD before and after a targeted educational intervention.
- **Secondary Objectives:**
  - To identify perceived barriers to providing LAI MOUD in community pharmacy settings.
  - To evaluate changes in willingness to offer and counsel on LAI MOUD following educational exposure.
  - To determine whether targeted education influences pharmacists' confidence in counseling, ordering, and administering LAI MOUD.

Methods

- A prospective, multi-phase survey study conducted across Albertsons Companies community pharmacies nationwide in states where pharmacists are legally authorized to administer LAI MOUD.
- The study period was November 2025 – February 2026.
- Eligible participants included licensed pharmacists currently practicing in community pharmacy settings.
- Surveys were distributed electronically via QuestionPro through corporate email and internal communication channels.
- Participants who completed both the pre- and post-surveys were given the option to enter a drawing, and 10 participants will each receive a $100 electronic gift card.

Results

- A total of 201 pharmacists across multiple states completed the pre-survey, 127 completed the post-survey, and 67 completed the follow-up survey.
- Moderate-to-high comfort administering LAI MOUD increased from 38% at baseline to 72% post-intervention ($p < 0.001$), and with sustained improvement at follow-up (66%).
- When ranking perceived barriers (1 = most significant; 6 = least significant), administration-related comfort (37.7%) and time/workflow constraints (36.7%) were most frequently ranked as the primary barrier.
- Training (9.1%), stigma (6.5%), storage/regulatory requirements (6.0%), and billing/reimbursement concerns (4.0%) were less commonly identified as the top barrier.

Figure 1:

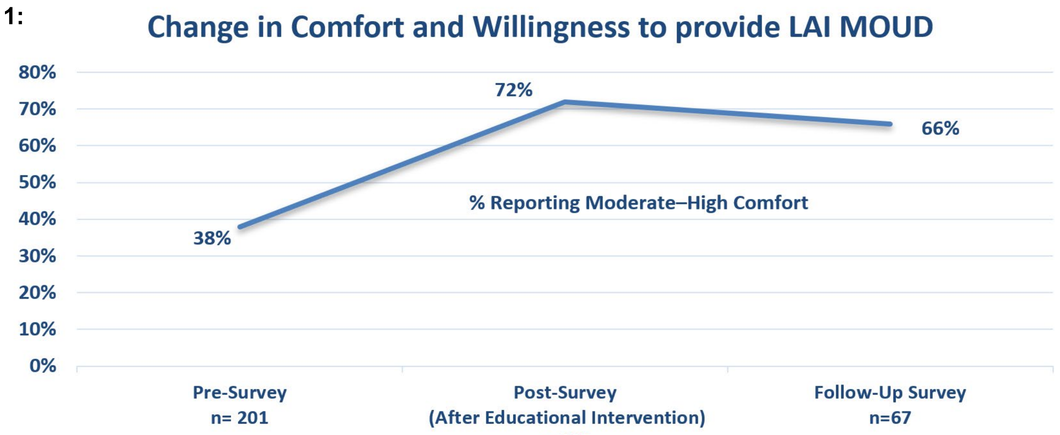
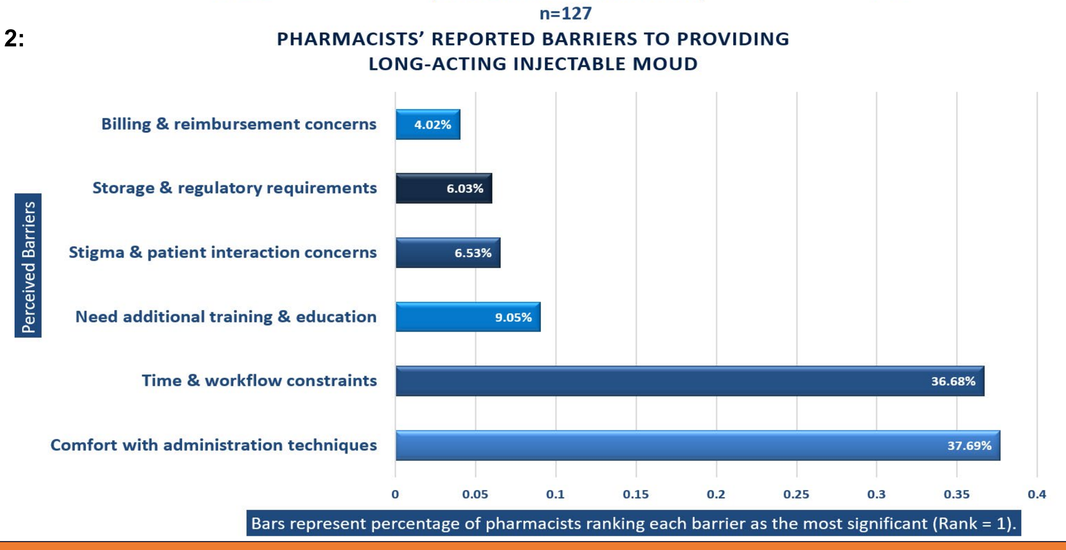


Figure 2:



Conclusion

- The educational intervention was associated with a statistically significant improvement in pharmacist comfort administering LAI MOUD.
- Administration-related confidence and workflow constraints were identified as the primary barriers.
- Pharmacists reported educational materials were useful and would consider future implementation.
- Targeted educational and operational strategies may support expanded integration of LAI MOUD services within community pharmacy practice.

APhA American Pharmacists Association
Thank you to our supporter!
Walmart Save money. Live better.