Impact of Specialty Pharmacist Integration on Time to Pimavanserin Medication Access

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Quick Facts

Analyzed

33 Patients before VSP Integration

61 Patients after VSP Integration

Over

2016 Two Years of Patients Prescribed Pimavanserin **2018**

VSP Involvement Resulted in

21 day average decrease in time to medication access

16% increase in pimavanserin approval

18% increase in pimavanserin initiation

VANDERBILT HEALTH

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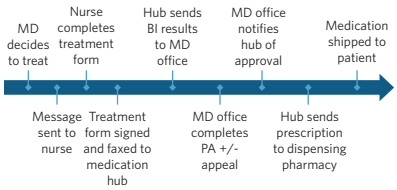
Background

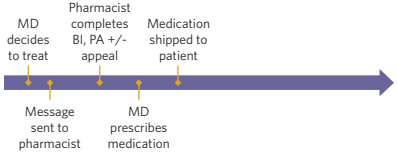
- Pimavanserin is the only FDA-approved treatment for Parkinson's Disease-related psychosis.[1]
- Pimavanserin can be difficult to access due to insurance authorization requirements and limited distribution network requirements.
- Safety and efficacy monitoring is needed to ensure adherence and clinical benefit once therapy is initiated.
- Objective: Determine the impact of specialty pharmacist integration on time to access for pimavanserin.

Figure 1: Clinic Workflow

Before Vanderbilt Specialty Pharmacy Integration



After Vanderbilt Specialty Pharmacy Integration



MD=prescribing physician; BI=benefits investigation; PA=prior authorization

Methods

- **Design:** Singe-center, retrospective cohort
- **Sample:** Patients prescribed pimavanserin through neurology clinic from May 2016 – July 2018
- **Primary Outcome:** Medication access time, defined as days between treatment decision and insurance approval

Results

Table 1: Sample Demographics

	Before integration % (n) N=33	After integration % (n) N=61
Age, years (mean ± SD)	70.4 ± 7.5	74.9 ± 8.8
Gender (male)	82% (27)	79% (48)
Race (Caucasian)	91% (30)	98% (60)
Insurance		
Commercial	24% (8)	16% (10)
Medicare/Medicaid	76% (25)	84% (51)
Financial Assistance		
Yes	N/A	70.5% (43)
No	N/A	14.8% (9)
Date unavailable	N/A	14.8% (9)

Figure 2: Median Time from Treatment Decision to Access

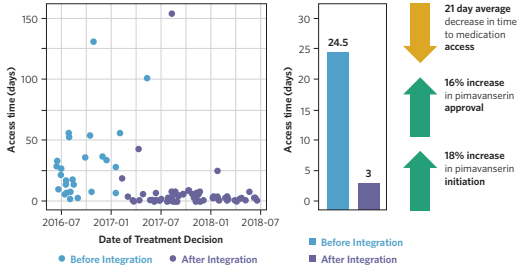
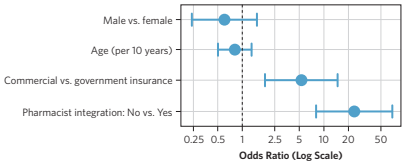


Figure 3: Factors associated with time to access



- 23-fold increase in odds of experiencing a longer time to access before integration.
- Government insurance associated with shorter access time.

Figure 4: Impact on approval and therapy initiation

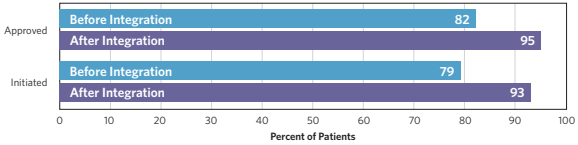


Table 2: Pharmacist Interventions

Type of Intervention	Number
Insurance approval/financial assistance	135
Medication counseling	58
Coordination of care (Provider/caregiver communication)	57
Patient monitoring	56
Side effect* management	6
Medication adherence	1

**Patient-reported side effects included confusion, nausea, peripheral edema, and combative behavior.*

Conclusions

- An integrated clinical pharmacist can expedite treatment access and initiation, while also providing monitoring for drug safety and efficacy.
- Further research is needed to assess clinic outcomes associated with faster access to pimavanserin.

[1]Nuplazid (pimavanserin) tablets [package insert]. San Diego, CA: Acadia Pharmaceuticals Inc.; April 2016.

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