

A PRESCRIPTION FOR BETTER HEALTH: DRIVING MEDICATION ADHERENCE AT INTEGRATED WORKPLACE PRIMARY CARE AND PHARMACIES

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Short Title: A Prescription for Better Health

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Précis:

To determine the impact of workplace health services on adherence to chronic medications, this study compares adherence rates for workplace-treated patients to community-treated patients.

Take-away Points:

- Patients who use workplace primary care and pharmacy services have higher adherence rates to medications for their chronic conditions.
- There is a significant trend regardless of the medication type, number of days supply, or geographic location toward workplace treated patients being more adherent to drug treatment.
- By investing in integrated workplace primary care and pharmacy services, employers may realize improved medication adherence rates, resulting in potential healthcare cost savings.

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ABSTRACT

Title: A Prescription for Better Health: Driving Medication Adherence at Integrated Workplace Primary Care and Pharmacies

Objective: To test the association between integrated workplace health and pharmacy care on medication adherence.

Study Design: Adherence rates for commonly used chronic disease medications are compared in a retrospective, non-case controlled study of 4,514 workplace treated patients versus 13,134 community treated patients.

Methods: Pharmacy claims data are used to compute the Medication Possession Ratio (MPR) for patients who receive care in different settings for 20 therapeutic classes. Statistical tests for assessing between group differences are performed controlling for differences due to age, gender, number of chronic conditions, number of medication therapeutic classes, and patient out of pocket cost per therapy day. Results are reported for overall adherence as well as adherence for patients on new medications.

Results: Significant differences were found between workplace treated patients and community treated patients. Workplace treated patients had overall adherence rates 9.72% higher than community treated patients. This pattern was repeated with an overall adherence rate 9.52% higher for workplace treated patients when prescriptions were limited to medication new starts.

Conclusions: Integrated workplace primary care and pharmacy services are one way to increase medication adherence and have the potential to save not only healthcare dollars, but also improve the lives of chronically ill patients.