A participatory process to develop a naloxone, buprenorphine, and syringe safety intervention for community pharmacies

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Background

- Pharmacies are well positioned to mitigate opioid risks through provision of naloxone to people taking opioid medications and supplying nonprescription syringes for safe injection.
- Many pharmacists and technicians are unsure of how to address these topics with patients and some may harbor stigma towards people who use drugs.

Objective

- We used a participatory design process with multiple stakeholders to integrate two evidence-based opioid safety-focused training toolkits (**MOON** and **RESPOND**) and to enhance content related to buprenorphine dispensing and nonprescription syringe sales.

Methods

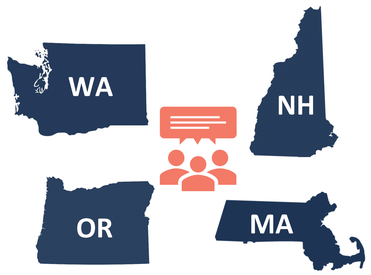
- **MOON** materials focused on naloxone knowledge and dispensing; **RESPOND** emphasized communication strategies and importance of opioid safety screenings.



- We formed external advisory committees (EACs) across each state comprised of **pharmacists, policy makers, community health workers, and researchers** (n=20) to provide feedback via online surveys and presentations to local task forces.



- Three in-person focus groups with **people who use drugs** (n=17) in one urban and two rural areas were held.



- Toolkits included a continuing **education (CE) online course**, **academic detailing**, as well as pharmacist-and patient-facing **materials**.

RESPOND TO PREVENT

Academic Detailing

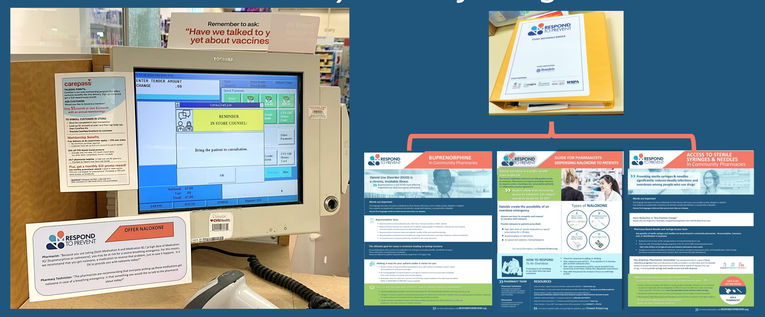


Pharmacy Materials

Patient-facing



Pharmacy team-facing

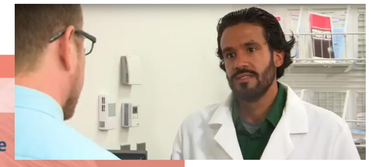


Online CE-Accredited Course



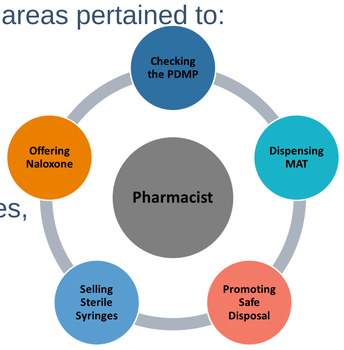
Results

- EAC survey responses and task force discussions affirmed the need to focus **online courses** and **academic detailing** on:
  1) naloxone assessment,
  2) counseling, and
  3) pharmacy workflow.





- **New content** and tool **enhancement** areas pertained to:
  1) buprenorphine effectiveness,
  2) concomitant medication monitoring,
  3) prescriber communication,
  4) reducing stigma at syringe sale,
  5) community benefit of syringe sales, and importance of safe disposal.



- Focus group participants discussed toolkit **refinements** to:
  1) reduce stigma
  2) present clear patient-facing messaging with pictures
  3) offer syringe disposal containers, and
  4) use training videos with more realistic scenarios.



Conclusion

- Adaptation and enhancement of a comprehensive, evidence-based toolkit for pharmacists was formalized through a participatory process with multiple stakeholders.
- Community engagement in intervention development improved the validity and meaning of materials for stakeholders, especially for people who use drugs.

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