

Professional pharmacy services (PPS) aim to improve pharmaceutical care and address gaps in the healthcare system whereby medication errors occur. Many PPS focus on patients taking multiple medications. Key information, policy recommendations, and details from an ODPRN study examining PPS in Ontario are highlighted

Nearly half of patients with complex medication regimens do not access PPS

46.4% of patients treated with 13 or more medications did not receive PPS

Why did we do this study?

Despite the introduction of targeted PPS over the years, little is known about the extent to which these services are used across Ontario, and whether they are being delivered to patients most at risk of adverse drug events.

What were we investigating?

In this study we investigated the extent to which patient complexity was related to provision of PPS in Ontario.

Where can I find more information?

The full study is available [here](#)

About ODPRN

We leverage cutting-edge research methodology and rapidly incorporate findings into policy reports for decision-makers on real-world drug utilization, safety, effectiveness, and costs.

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KEY POINTS

- Just over one-quarter of patients eligible for public drug coverage received at least one PPS over the course of the year.
- Overall, individuals who received a PPS tended to be older, more likely to reside in a long-term care (LTC) facility, have multiple comorbidities, and were more likely to have been prescribed 9 or more medications in the past year
- As patient complexity increased, the proportion of ODB beneficiaries who received PPS also increased.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Policy-makers may want to better understand the facilitators and barriers to access of PPS among complex patients

STUDY DETAILS

- The ODPRN conducted a cross-sectional study among individuals dispensed one or more medications under the Ontario Public Drug Program (OPDP) between April 1, 2012 and March 31, 2013. Patient complexity was measured by the number of chronic medications dispensed.
- Over the study period, 27.1% (N=799,674 of 2,946,183) of ODB beneficiaries received at least one PPS. Individuals who received PPS in Ontario tended to be older (median 73 years vs. 66 years) and more likely to reside in a LTC facility (10.9% vs. 0.3%)
- Those receiving PPS were more likely to have multiple comorbidities (34.5% with 10 or more ADGs) compared to those who received no such services (19.8% with 10 or more ADGs), and were more likely to have been prescribed 13 or more medications in the past year (28.5% vs. 9.3% among PPS recipients and non-recipients, respectively).
- As patient complexity increased, the proportion of ODB beneficiaries who received PPS also increased ($p < 0.0001$). Few individuals (3.0%) prescribed 1-2 medications in the past year received a PPS, while greater than half (53.6%) of those who received 13 or more medications received a PPS