

[P-579D] Pharmacist involvement in a VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)

Justice, K. M., Manatee VA Primary Care Clinic, 4333 North US Highway 301, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA Internet: justice.keri@bay-pines.va.gov

As a result of the passage of VHA Directive 97-015, Expanded Health Care Resource Sharing Authority, the Veterans Administration (VA) is opening Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) as offshoots to large medical centers. The purpose of opening these clinics is to improve accessibility to enrolled patients and provide care to those eligible but yet not enrolled. The Manatee VA Primary Care Clinic opened in September 1999 as the fourth Community Based Outpatient Clinic under the Bay Pines VA Health System. The clinic serves over 2500 veterans from Manatee County, and is located 35 miles south of the main facility, Bay Pines VA Medical Center. The clinic operates with 4 primary care physicians and is staffed by a full time clinical pharmacist. Most VA Medical Centers are opening such clinics, but few are staffed with pharmacists. Pharmacist involvement includes formulary management, anticoagulation services, disease state management, new patient orientation, patient counseling, and staff development. This poster will describe the activities and detail the cost savings associated with pharmacist intervention. During the month of March 2000, data was collected regarding activities, cost savings, and interventions. Projected annual savings based on pharmacist intervention would exceed \$250,000.00. The experiences at the Manatee VA would suggest that cost savings would offset costs associated with pharmacist involvement.