Impact of the Ambulatory Care Pharmacist on the Management of Comorbid Disease States in Pregnant Women

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Learning Objectives
1. Identify pregnant women who would benefit from pharmacist management combined in their perinatal care.
2. Identify barriers to implementing ambulatory care services in this patient population.

Pre/Post Questions
1. Who should be included in the team based care of women of child bearing age?
2. What interventions have been proven to decrease premature births?
3. What are the benefits of collaborative care models in the management of pregnant women?

Background
◊ Generally there is a lack of research on pharmacy impact in this area; however, many national organizations are calling for increased collaboration in the care of this patient population.

Methods
◊ Care is provided under a collaborative practice agreement which follows published guidelines for the management of pregnant women. It takes into account physician preferences as well as the safety and efficacy of medications during pregnancy.
◊ Pharmacy services take place in a maternal fetal medicine clinic and patients can be referred to the services from many sources including their primary care provider, OB/GYN or perinatologist.
◊ Comorbidities managed include: asthma, diabetes, thyroid disorders, tobacco use disorders and need for anticoagulation. Medication review and immunization screening/administration are offered and proper transition of care following delivery is provided.
◊ Each type of visit is structured so that it may be completed by a pharmacist, pharmacy student or nurse who has been trained to follow the visit protocols.

Results
◊ Pharmacy services went into effect in January 2016 and 18 women had been referred as of March 31, 2016.
◊ Largest demand during that time period was for tobacco cessation and asthma management with the least demand for anticoagulation, thyroid disorder management and immunizations.
◊ In total, about 23 hours were spent in direct patient care between January and March 2016.

Conclusion/Discussion
◊ Pharmacy services were well accepted by physicians and patients.
◊ The main benefit of this project to date has been cost savings due to physician time saved.

Future Direction
◊ This project has many areas in which it could improve and grow. Extension of this project may yield better data regarding maternal and fetal outcomes.

Thank You!
References: