

# Abstract Submission

*Pharmaceutical Practice*

*Community Pharmacy*

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## **Canadian pharmacists needs assessment in the management of anticoagulation therapy: Results of the International Pharmacist Anticoagulation Care Taskforce (iPACT) survey**

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**My preferred method of presentation is::** Oral Presentation

**Backgrounds:** The International Pharmacists for Anticoagulation Care Taskforce (iPACT) is an expert group committed to enhancing the key role that pharmacists play in anticoagulation management. Pharmacists are ideally suited to monitor patients in this therapeutic area, however, an assessment of their knowledge in providing consultations has not been formally evaluated.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this needs assessment survey is to identify self-reported gaps in competences and confidence among practicing pharmacists in the area of anticoagulation.

**Methods:** An electronic link to the survey was distributed to Canadian pharmacists by their national pharmacy association. Also, the survey was emailed to the pharmacist-owners of the largest pharmacy chain in Canada.

**Results:** 217 pharmacists completed the survey. Majority of respondents practiced in community (92.9%), with hospital (5.3%) and specialized clinics (1.8%) less widely represented. Only 24.9% of pharmacists reported feeling very confident discussing indications for oral anticoagulation with patients. Areas of opportunity included managing adverse effects, interactions, and switching between agents. Pharmacists cited increased confidence with warfarin (31.1%) over newer direct acting oral agents (21.8%). 92.0% of pharmacists reported they would like additional education in anticoagulation with personalized e-learning as the preferred source.

**Conclusions:** These results highlight an apparent lack of confidence by community pharmacists when discussing anticoagulation. Future continuing education programs should be developed on electronic platforms focusing on practical clinical themes including management of bleeding, adverse events, and bridging between agents.

**Disclosure of Interest:** None Declared