

Estimated cost impact of clinical pharmacy services in a pediatric primary care clinic

P. Chase Carpenter¹, PharmD; Janesha Thomas¹, PharmD; James Burns², MD

¹The Children’s Hospital at Sacred Heart • Pensacola, FL

²Pediatric Care Center • Pensacola, FL



Objectives

- Establish clinical pharmacy services within a pediatric primary care clinic
- Identify areas of impact for a clinical pharmacist
- Estimate cost-avoidance of clinical pharmacy services and interventions

Introduction

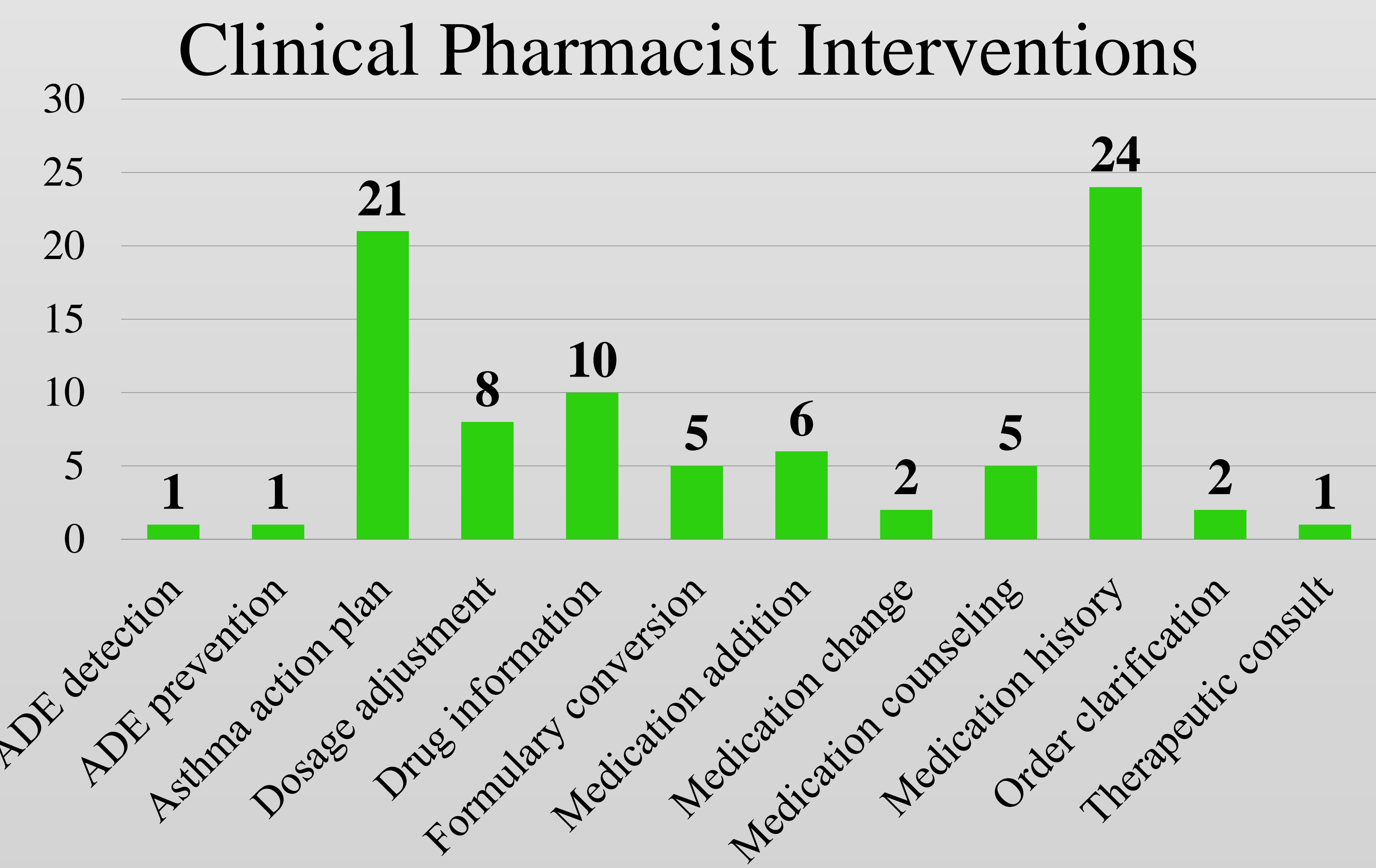
- Changes within our nation’s healthcare system continue to place emphasis on primary care as the principal method to meet the ever-increasing healthcare needs of the population^{1,2}
- Utilizing pharmacists as medication therapy experts can improve patient care, while reducing cost and maximizing resources^{1,2}
- The cost-benefit of pharmacists has been well established within university and community hospitals, hospital-associated clinics, and free-standing clinics^{1,2,3}
- However, much of this information is derived from adult data
- Currently, clinical pharmacy services are not provided at Sacred Heart Health System within ambulatory care areas

Methods

- Prior to initiation of pharmacy services, providers and staff were polled as to what services may be beneficial
- A clinical pharmacist was placed in the medical resident managed pediatric primary clinic during daily operating hours
- Chart reviews, medication reconciliation, drug information, and patient counseling services were provided
- Clinical pharmacist interventions were logged in a secure database
- Estimated cost-impact was extrapolated from previously published literature based on type of intervention³

Results

- Clinical pharmacy services were offered for a total of 18 days
- A total of 86 interventions were logged
- Medication histories and Asthma Action Plans accounted for approximately half of the interventions
- Therapy manipulations (dose adjustments, formulary conversions, medication additions, and medication changes) accounted for 25% of interventions

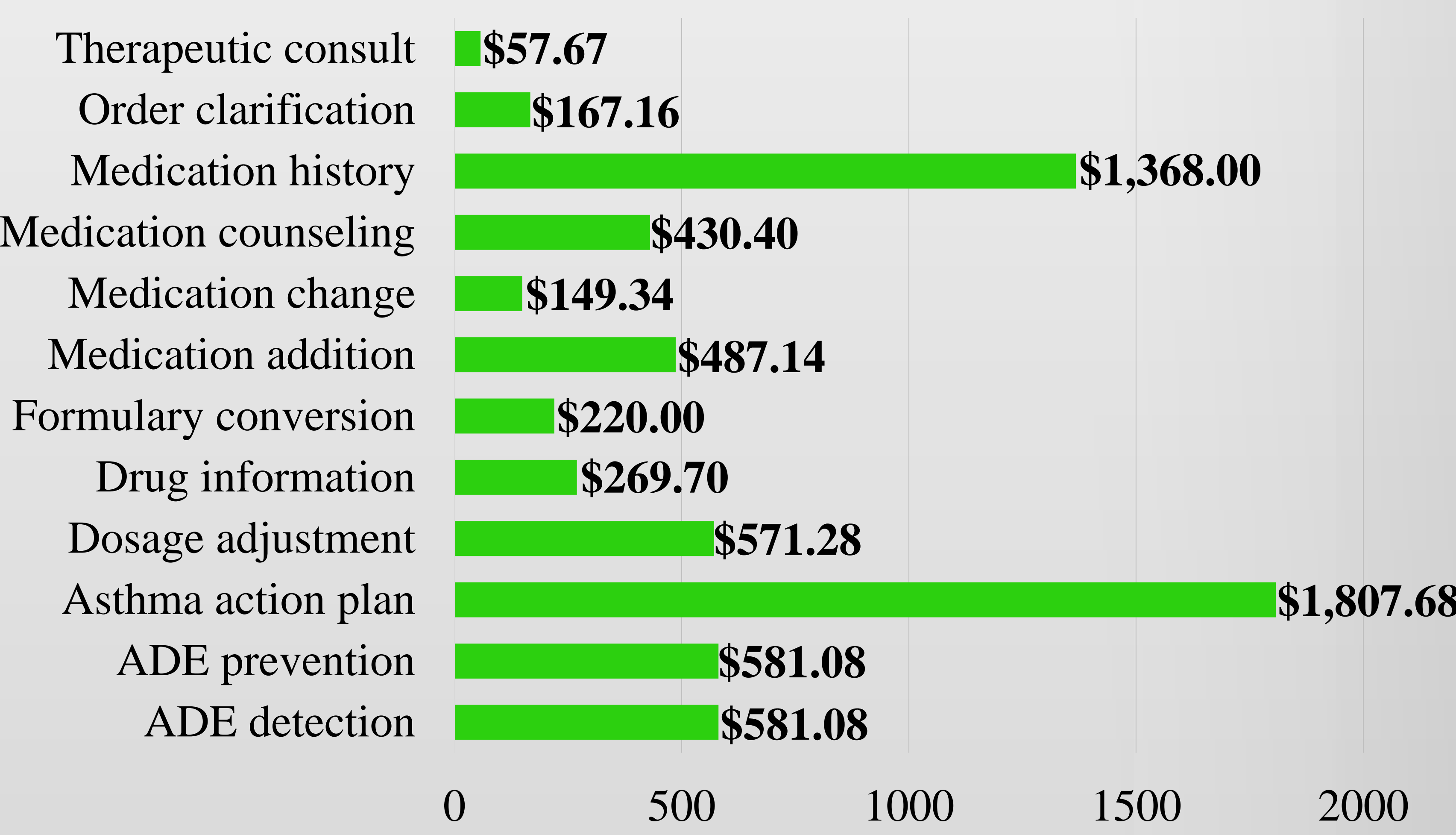


- Estimated cost-impact was extrapolated from averages cited in previous literature
- The total estimated cost-avoidance over 18 days was \$6,690.53
- The average daily cost-avoidance was estimated to be \$371.70

Intervention Type	Intervention Total	Estimated Cost Impact ³
ADE detection/prevention	2	\$581.08
Asthma action plan	21	\$86.08
Dosage adjustment	8	\$71.41
Drug information	10	\$26.97
Formulary conversion	5	\$44.00
Medication addition	6	\$81.19
Medication change	2	\$74.67
Medication counseling	5	\$86.08
Medication history	24	\$57.00
Order clarification	2	\$83.58
Therapeutic consult	1	\$57.67

Results

Estimated Cost-avoidance



Conclusion/Discussion

- There is considerable cost-avoidance associated with clinical pharmacy services in a pediatric ambulatory care clinic
- Cost-impact is an estimate and may not reflect the actual cost-savings or cost-avoidance of a specific intervention
- Although cost is an important outcome, the impact of a pharmacist on therapeutic outcomes should also be noted
- Pharmacists offer a unique perspective regarding cost-effectiveness and considerable expertise in patient counseling
- Collaborative practice agreements may provide future areas of impact for pharmacists within this clinic

Disclosures

- The authors of this presentation have nothing to disclose concerning possible financial or personal relationships with commercial entities

References

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