

Abstract

Introduction: The pharmaceutical industry is rapidly changing, as is the pharmacist's role in patient care. Continuing Education (CE) is the foundation on which healthcare providers in the U.S. maintain their competency and commit to lifelong learning. Pharmacists are required to meet individual state CE requirements as a condition of continued licensure. CE activities come in many forms, and cover a variety of topics, but it is up to individual pharmacists to complete CE to meet requirements, most often on their own time. This study attempts to identify common influences and barriers to completing CE and whether there is a relation to job satisfaction.

Methods: An observational cross-sectional design, utilized Qualtrics to survey pharmacists who are from a range of practice sites. The survey was open from October 22nd to November 19th, 2020 and consisted of questions to assess influences and hindrances to complete CE activities, as well as job satisfaction and CE perception.

Results: Surveys were sent out to 150 pharmacists and there was a total of 40 surveys completed, resulting in a response rate of 27%. Fifty percent of participants reported that time restrictions were the most influential factor for completing CE and the top responses for factors that hinder CE completion were not being able to complete CE while at work, the cost for doing CE, and the length of time it takes to complete CE. Spearman correlation analyses provided that there was no direct correlation between job satisfaction and perceptions toward CE.

Conclusion: Influences and barriers identified reflect those found in previous studies. There is not enough evidence to support a direct correlation between job satisfaction and perceived value of continuing education. Further research on the motivations and obstacles for continuing education will help pharmacists provide optimal care to all patients.