

# The MD-PharmD HS Clinic

Santana VanDyke, MD, Ryan Lackey, PharmD, CPPS

## Background

- Starting in April of 2024, the pharmacist started working within the University of Vermont Medical Center Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS) Clinic, alongside the HS specialist, residents, and students

### Goals:

- Provide further and more expedited access to medication information
  - Assist with navigating medical and pharmacy insurance
  - Provide medication counseling and injection teaching during appointments
  - Aid with access to upcoming medications and education on new HS treatments
- The HS Clinic at the University of Vermont Medical Center treats patients twice weekly, seeing approximately 15 patients weekly from all of Vermont and upstate New York

## Pharmacists in Ambulatory Care

- Definition:** The provision of integrated, accessible healthcare services by pharmacists who are accountable for addressing medication needs, developing sustained partnerships with patients, and practicing in the context of family and community.<sup>1</sup>
- Benefits of Including Pharmacist into Practice:** Medication and patient assessment, creation and assistance with care plans, and ongoing monitoring of compliance and efficacy of treatment. Pharmacists are also experts in navigating the pharmacy and healthcare systems.<sup>1</sup>

## Clinic Workflow

Patient presents to HS clinic for initial visit or follow-up



Patient is seen by resident and/or student



Resident and/or medical student presents patient case to dermatologist and pharmacist

### Pharmacist's Role

- Answer medication questions
- Review next treatment options evaluating insurance requirements, drug interactions, and lab requirements
- Navigate insurance issues and medication acquisition difficulties



Dermatologist evaluates patient, discussing treatment plan and follow-up

### Pharmacist's Role

- Order required labs, referrals, and medications as recommended
- Provide patient counseling and complete injection teaching
- Assist with financial support including medication assistance programs and copay cards

## Results & Discussion

- Biologics:** Since the initiation of this collaboration in April 2024, over 275 patients with HS have been treated. Of these patients, over 100 have required biologic therapy due to the severity of their HS.

Patients on biologic therapy require a higher level of care due to the complexity of treatment, insurance requirements, and monitoring. Integration of a pharmacist can help expedite this process, optimizing patient care and ensuring safety and efficacy of treatment.

- GLP-1's:** With this collaboration, patients have been able to gain access to new and upcoming treatments for HS, including GLP-1 receptor agonists. Our clinic has helped over 20 patients gain access to these treatments.
- In summary, we have found that incorporating a pharmacist into HS clinic can improve patient outcomes, medication management, and patient satisfaction. We strongly recommend this collaborative dermatologist-pharmacist HS clinic model.

## References

- Mohiuddin AK. The New Era of Pharmacists in Ambulatory Patient Care [retracted in: Innov Pharm. 2020 Feb 25;11(1). doi: 10.24926/iip.v11i1.3943.]. Innov Pharm. 2019;10(1):10.24926/iip.v10i1.1622. Published 2019 Aug 31. doi:10.24926/iip.v10i1.1622



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