**About the Patient Annual Report**

My name is Jesse Rue and I'm the Clinical Coordinator for the About the Patient program with the North Dakota Pharmacy Service Corporation, and it's my pleasure to present this annual report.  
  
The About the Patient program was created well over a decade ago to create and grow clinical pharmacy programs to advance care opportunities for pharmacists across North Dakota.    
  
Today I will speak to some of our successes and challenges in 2022 as well as a brief look forward.  
  
There are several efforts which I will highlight:  
  
First is our more than a decade long partnership with the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System by which pharmacists across the state provide comprehensive diabetes management to state employees and their dependents.  This program has been quite successful and has also witnessed a bit of change along the way.  About four years ago, the state had directed us to explore ways to increase patient engagement with the program and pharmacists have met the challenge, with visits increasing each year for the past four years.  In total, visits have increased over 150% with several hundred patients under care today.    
  
One of the true highlights of my job is working with the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services and the pharmacy staff at NDSU.  For the past five years, we have worked together on various projects to strengthen and grow pharmacy services across North Dakota, but the most exciting may be our work with pharmacy students.  Through this program, pharmacy students undergo a competitive process for rural rotation slots across the state and are tasked with stabilizing and expanding pharmacy services in their communities.  The results have been remarkable and that's a testament to all of the partners I mentioned as well as the quality of students and preceptors.  We have increased delivery of MTMs, BP and diabetes prevention screenings and referrals, point of care testing, immunization gap reviews, and digital remote patient monitoring.  The increases for many of those services are counted in the hundreds, and that's only across an average of 5 sites per year.  We've even had students independently secure 3 CPAs in rural communities--truly wonderful work.  
  
Looking ahead, we are confident that we will have several exciting training opportunities in 2023/24 for pharmacists, residents, and students to grow their skills and confidence in the direct administration of medications, from nebulizers to intradermal meds to IV fluids and IV boluses.  Pharmacy benefits when it can be hands on, and this has some particular benefits to those working in small hospitals and emergency rooms.  This is a partnership  with the NDSU School of Nursing and the ND Board of Pharmacy and we're excited about what it can grow into.    
  
For the rest of 2023, we look forward to growing opportunities and engagement with North Dakota Medicaid and other payers, supporting pharmacist provided nicotine cessation care, some new software to support our work and perhaps even a couple of unexpected surprises that I am not able to speak about yet.    
  
All of this is to say that I have a cynical sense of humor but deep down I'm really an optimist.   Regardless of the roadblocks and problems we face, we do believe that there is a future and that it's a good one.  We are working for you and with you to make it so.

Thank you all for taking part in this convention, I hope to visit with many of you, and we're always hungry for ideas.    
  
I'll close with a particular word of thanks for our great partners, particularly NDHHS and NDSU, students, and preceptors, and the Board of Pharmacy.    
  
Thank you all and enjoy the weekend,  
  
  
  
  
--Jesse Rue, PharmD, BCPS, Clinical Coordinator About the Patient