

# Executive Summary

## Pharmacy Post 2006 Survey of Pharmacists on Prescription Drug Adherence

Methodology: Online survey of 174 Canadian pharmacists conducted between mid-March and mid-April

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Consider your patients with chronic diseases (e.g., asthma, hypertension) who are late getting their prescriptions refilled or who fail to refill their prescriptions. Based on your experience, rate the significance of the following factors in driving these poor adherence levels.

	Significant	Not Significant
These patients do not have a good understanding of the negative consequences that result from not taking their medications properly	77%	7%
These patients choose to skip a dosage, or even stop treatment, when they "feel better" or are symptom-free	68%	6%
When prescribed multiple therapies to treat a single condition, these patients find it difficult to keep track of their regimens and refills	68%	10%
These patients do not have a good understanding of the seriousness of their condition	65%	7%
These patients decide to stop treatment because they do not want to have to take drugs continuously to treat their condition	53%	12%
These patients stretch out their supply to save money due to lack of coverage or limited coverage	51%	23%
Over time, these patients innocently forget to regularly take dosages or to refill their medications	44%	24%



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Consider your patients aged 40 to 65 who have coverage through a private drug benefits plan. Based on your experience, indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
When managing a chronic disease over an extended period of time, these patients find it difficult to make positive lifestyle changes (e.g., smoking cessation, exercise, diet) to supplement their drug therapy(ies)	67%	8%
Questions and concerns over drug coverage often take time away from counseling these patients on their medications and/or related healthcare matters	63%	17%
These patients tend to be concerned about out of pocket costs when prescribed chronic disease medication.	54%	20%
When newly diagnosed with a chronic disease, these patients are eager for as much information as possible about their condition and how to treat it	45%	12%
These patients tend to be more rushed and have the least amount of time for counseling when they pick up new prescriptions	37%	33%

Ideally, what should employers do to help their employees take their drugs properly? Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
Include pharmacy services (e.g., diabetes care, hypertension management, smoking cessation) as a health benefit to help employees manage their disease	87%	3%
Give employees incentives to participate in programs for disease management or wellness (e.g., weight loss, cholesterol management programs)	80%	4%
Develop employee education programs that target disease states with a high incidence in the workplace (e.g., hypertension, depression)	76%	7%
Increase coverage of "lifestyle" products and services (e.g., smoking cessation, weight loss programs) that help employees manage their disease	76%	7%
Decrease restrictions on formularies so that all therapeutic options are available for any given disease state	56%	22%
Decrease co-payments and/or deductibles so that patients are less likely to skip dosages or refills in order to save money	47%	31%
Increase co-payments and/or deductibles so that patients are more personally accountable for their medications	16%	57%



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