

LTC Project Overview



What is RxFiles??

RxFiles is an academic detailing program providing objective, comparative drug information to physicians, pharmacists and allied health professionals. The program began in 1997 as a service to Saskatoon family physicians.

In 2000, the program was expanded to provide service to physicians throughout Saskatchewan. Efforts to keep our drug selection tools up to date resulted in the publication of the RxFiles Drug Comparison Charts book, beginning in 2001. The book has become a practical tool for evidence based and clinically relevant drug use information throughout Canada.

RxFiles continues to serve health providers and educators through newsletter reviews, Q&As, Trial Summaries, and up-to-date drug comparison charts. The clinical relevance of these materials comes from their initial focus as academic detailing tools for the front line practitioner wanting to provide the best possible drug therapy for their patients.

What is academic detailing?

"Academic detailing", or "educational outreach", is the process of providing balanced, non-commercial, evidence based information/education for individual physicians in their offices. It is adopted from the pharmaceutical industry's practice of 'detailing' physicians about new drugs; however, with academic detailing, the sales agenda is removed. The concept was pioneered by Stephen Soumerai and Jerry Avorn in the USA. Academic detailing has been shown to be one of the most successful methods for influencing the prescribing practices of physicians.

Where does the funding for RxFiles come from?

RxFiles academic detailing for Saskatchewan is not-for profit program funded by a grant from Saskatchewan Health. Additional revenues from the sale of our book and services allow us to further develop and maintain our drug comparison charts.

For more information about the RxFiles Academic Detailing Program see the attached RxFiles chart: "**RxFiles Academic Detailing & Those One of a Kind Drug Charts**".

Saskatchewan health care professionals can also gain free access to the RxFiles website through shirp.ca

www.RxFiles.ca

Long-Term Care (LTC) Project

- LTC is an area with extensive drug therapy use in a population at high risk of drug related problems. The RxFiles LTC Project will look for ways to promote better drug therapy in this challenging area. This may be done by evaluating the evidence, providing balanced information, and looking for ways to improve current processes and sharing of information related to LTC drug use.
- The scope of the LTC project is provincial.
- Information and educational discussions will address best practice questions for physicians, pharmacists, nurses, other care providers and families of clients in the LTC system.
- The project has secured funding until March 2015 through the RxFiles Academic Detailing Program.
- Project work is being led by Julia Bareham (with support from the RxFiles team).
- LTC Project goals:
 - To explore specific topic research and publications related to this population
 - To provide education to LTC workers such as managers, nurse educators and other health care professionals
 - To provide education to pharmacists providing specialized services and periodic medication reviews for the LTC patient population
 - To engage the variety of health care professionals providing care in the LTC setting in pursuing an integrated approach toward the implementation of “best practice” approaches to drug therapy in this population

How the Project will Have an Impact on Medication Use

- Of note, LTC project pharmacists will not be involved in direct patient care (e.g. not attending patient rounds, reviewing patient charts, or making patient recommendations to individual physicians)
- Pharmacists involved in LTC contracts have been engaged in the project from both SHR and RQHR (among others). Their contact information has been collected and they are informed of any events or tools that may be of use to them when it comes to medication management in LTC. The project work will attempt to provide this group of stakeholders with education, information and tools that can be applied from the dispensary or on-site to allow for better medication reviews and optimization of patient drug therapies.
- LTC Facilities in SHR and RQHR have been directly contacted and offered educational sessions for their staff. These sessions will target nursing staff as well as administrators and will be ongoing.
- Education and information related to drug therapy in the LTC population will be offered to a variety of HCPs in a variety of settings. Conferences arranged by other organizations

will be pursued in an effort to educate Saskatchewan HCPs about the program and the services it can provide (eg. 2011 & 2012 – Alzheimer's Society's Kaleidoscope of Care conference was attended by RxFiles, presentations at Geriatric Rounds at City Hospital, Family Medicine Review, among others).

- RxFiles website will eventually house links to the LTC information available to all subscribers (free to Saskatchewan HCPs through Health Regions or SHIRP). This will allow for timely access to RxFiles resources for LTC workers whenever they require the info.
- Family and patient focussed resources will also be developed on variety of topics. Some resources are already in existence for distribution.

How can you and your facility get involved?

RxFiles would be happy to provide your facilities with educational sessions and materials as they are developed. Currently, long-term care facilities have the opportunity to have an RxFiles academic detailer provide information and education related to the behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia and where antipsychotics fit related to the treatment of these symptoms. Other topics such as the Beers and STOPP Criteria, Glycemic Targets in the Elderly, Medications for Insomnia, and others are also available.

There is never any cost to you to participate in the above mentioned RxFiles activities.

You can also provide RxFiles with any feedback or suggestions you may have related to the project, materials, knowledge gaps you perceive in LTC, future topics, etc. These comments, along with any questions you may have, would be best communicated to Julia Bareham:

Contact Information:

Julia Bareham BSc, BSP
Pharmacist, Long-Term Care Project
RxFiles Academic Detailing Service
Saskatoon City Hospital
701 Queen Street, Saskatoon, SK S7K 4P5
www.RxFiles.ca

Office Phone: 306-655-7568

E-mail: julia@rxfiles.ca