are people with lived experience in navigating complex mental health systems and whose unique perspective helps guide peers on their journey to wellness. In the same manner that CPSS knowledge has improved clinical outcomes, partnering with CPSSs during CNS drug development may provide wellness outcomes in clinical trials that are more meaningful for people with lived experience. To this end, a CPSS Ambassador program was initiated.

Methods. Of 85 peer support specialists identified by internet searches, Linked-In, and peer support specialists' registries, 7 CPSSs met our criteria (i.e., having lived experience of psychosis and being a member of a treatment team) and agreed to be part of our ambassador program. Interactions included 6 monthly virtual meetings and a live roundtable meeting. The objectives of the program were to: 1) understand unmet needs in people with lived experience and identify impediments to effective treatment, 2) learn best practices for discussing medication use to support wellness, 3) identify resources that can help educate people and families with lived experience, and 4) highlight the importance of CPSSs within healthcare teams to optimize treatment outcomes.

Results. This CPSS ambassador program emphasized the need for shared decision making and partnership to forge a positive treatment team alliance. As such, treatment goals should be tailored to patients' needs ("nothing about me without me"). A major obstacle to effective treatment is the presence of bias or stigma among health care practitioners. Specifically, certain language used by clinicians has the potential to ostracize patients and negatively impact treatment. Medications should be discussed as one pillar of a larger treatment plan and not as a "fix" for symptoms. Educational resources written in layman's terms are needed to explain treatment algorithms and medication side effects. And finally, CPSSs make a significant contribution to person-focused positive outcomes and are an essential part of the treatment team. CPSSs are a conduit of lived experience and advocate for the individual

Conclusions. The following key outcomes were illuminated because of this work together: CPSS's are liaisons that facilitate the intersection between the treatment team and people utilizing mental health systems. CPSS's are critical to successful navigation of the mental health care system and reaching desired outcomes. Best practices for treatment teams are about effective, person-based and stigma free partnerships for positive and patient focused outcomes.

Prevalence of Concomitant Medications Among Patients with Schizophrenia Prescribed Atypical Antipsychotics

Yifei Wang, Monika Semwal, Courtney Zeni and Carole Dembek

Sumitomo Pharma America, Inc., Marlborough, Massachusetts, United States

Introduction. Typical and atypical antipsychotics (AAPs) are the main treatment options among patients with schizophrenia. However, AAPs have been associated with several side effects and comorbid conditions. To manage side effects, often patients are prescribed concomitant medications to manage their condition, increasing polypharmacy. Though common in practice, the prevalence of concomitant medication use in patients with schizophrenia is not well established. This study evaluated the annual prevalence of concomitant medications among patients with schizophrenia who were prescribed AAPs.

Methods. This retrospective study was conducted using the PharMetrics database (01/2019 – 12/2021). Patients were included in the analyses if they had a diagnosis of schizophrenia, were continuously enrolled in pharmacy and medical claims for the full year and were prescribed AAPs. A sensitivity analysis was also conducted among patients who demonstrated ≥50% adherence to their prescribed AAPs (with a grace period of 30 days). For both the main and sensitivity analyses patient populations, the concomitant drugs prescribed were labeled at the drug class (GPI2) and generic drug level. Prevalence for drug class and each drug was calculated as a percentage of patients who were prescribed ≥1 of the agent among those who met the inclusion and exclusion criteria within the given year.

Results. For the year 2019, 2020 and 2021, 12,360; 13,242 and 14,780 patients met the inclusion and exclusion criteria, respectively. The mean age of the cohort ranged from 43.5 - 45.4 years. Patients were predominantly male and commercially insured. Antidepressants were the most prevalent concomitant medication prescribed (2019: 61.2%, 2020: 61.2%, 2021: 62.0%). Other highly prevalent drug classes identified were - anticonvulsants (2019: 44.2%, 2020: 44.5%, 2021: 45.0%), antianxiety agents (2019: 36.3%, 2020: 37.6%, 2021: 38.9%), antihyperlipidemics (2019: 26.3%, 2020: 28.1%, 2021: 30.7%), antihypertensives (2019: 25.7%, 2020: 27.2%, 2021: 28.1%), antiparkinson agents (2019: 61.2%, 2020: 61.2%, 2021: 62.0%), anticholinergics (2019: 61.2%, 2020: 61.2%, 2021: 62.0%) and analgesics (2019: 61.2%, 2020: 61.2%, 2021: 62.0%). At the individual drug level, benzotropine mesylate (2019: 19.5%, 2020: 18.7%, 2021: 18.8%), atorvastatin (2019: 14.5%, 2020: 16.7%, 2021: 18.4%), lorazepam (2019: 14.1%, 2020: 14.7%, 2021: 14.3%), gabapentin (2019: 13.7%, 2020: 13.9%, 2021: 14.8%), and metformin (2019: 13.2%, 2020: 13.7%, 2021: 15.4%) were the most prevalent prescribed concomitant medications. There was no difference when similar analyses were conducted in the adherent patient population.

Conclusions. These results indicate a high prevalence of concomitant antidepressants, antihyperlipidemics, antihypertensives and anticholinergics among patients with schizophrenia who are prescribed AAPs.

Healthcare Resource Use and Cost Associated with Negative Symptoms of Schizophrenia

Soumak Basumallik, PhD[1], Monika Semwal, PhD[2], Mosadoluwa Afolabi, MPH[3], Gideon Aweh, MS[3], Sherry Han, PhD[4], Michael Tocco, PhD[2], Amit Kulkarni, PhD[4] and Carole Dembek, MS[2]

[1]Candidate: University of Colorado Denver; [2]Sumitomo Pharma America; [3]STA-TinMED and [4]Otsuka Pharmaceuticals