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Nese Yuksel and Cheryl Sadowski

Nese Yuksel, BScPharm, PharmD, FCSHP, NCMP CSHP Foundation Research Grant Recipient

"Beliefs and Current Practices of Pharmacists with Osteoporosis Treatment in Patients with Renal Failure"

CSHP Foundation research grant recipients are changing the face of pharmacy practice. Apply for a CSHP Foundation research grant at www.cshpfoundation.ca. **Deadline is October 17, 2014.**

Dr. Nese Yuksel and co-investigator Cheryl Sadowski conducted research in 2011-13 that was supported by a CSHP Foundation research grant. They received \$9,826 to survey Canadian pharmacists working in hospitals and related healthcare settings to determine their practice, beliefs and learning needs for the treatment of osteoporosis in patients with renal failure. The survey was completed by 367 pharmacists. The results of this research study were presented as an abstract at CSHP's SES 2013 and will be the basis for an osteoporosis workshop at PPC 2015. A manuscript of the research study's findings is currently under development.

Q: What did your research reveal?

A: Pharmacists had varying beliefs about managing osteoporosis in patients with renal failure. Nearly 41% would use a bisphosphonate for CrCl 15 – 30 mL/min, but majority would adjust the dose, while 56% would avoid a bisphosphonate and recommend another medication for CrCl < 15 mL/min. Pharmacists expressed a low level of comfort in assessing (51%) and initiating (55%) osteoporosis treatment in patients with renal failure. There was a high level of interest for further learning in osteoporosis and renal failure through practice tools and research summaries.

Q: What impact will your research have on hospital pharmacy practice?

A: The question of what to do for patients with osteoporosis in renal failure is not adequately addressed by available osteoporosis guidelines. Understanding pharmacists' current practice, beliefs and learning needs in this area provides direction for how to support pharmacists with practice tools and targeted education. Our next steps involve knowledge translation initiatives including the development of practice tools to support pharmacists in this area.

Q: Why should healthcare professionals, key decision makers and the general public pay attention to the research done by pharmacists?

A: Pharmacists are considered drug therapy experts, especially regarding medication use in renal impairment. The healthcare team and patient rely on the pharmacist's expertise for dosage adjustment and the safe use of medications. By doing research like this we can understand the pharmacists' needs in this complex area and target those needs to best support patient care.

Q: Why is the CSHP Foundation important to hospital pharmacists?

A: The Foundation provides funding for research that supports and enhances the role of the hospital pharmacists. Practice tools and outcomes support the practice of every pharmacist on the front line. Funding small research projects or pilot studies can help to generate data to leverage funding for future research.

The role of the hospital pharmacist is changing; research should be part of it.