



Utilization and Impact of Pain Medication E-Consults at the Salem VA HCS

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Background

- 51.6 million U.S. adults (20.9%) suffer from chronic pain and 17.1 million (6.9%) experienced high-impact chronic pain that interferes with at least one major life activity
- Veterans suffer at a higher intensity from chronic pain than the general population
- Rural veterans experience chronic pain and opioid prescriptions at higher rates than their urban counterparts
- Pharmacist-led medication reviews may optimize medication regimens for rural Veterans but utilization and effectiveness of this service is unknown.

Purpose

Evaluate the utilization and effectiveness of a Pain Medication E-Consult at a rural Appalachian VA during calendar year 2022.

Methods

Referring provider places Pain Medication E-Consult into the veteran's EMR

Clinical Pharmacy Practitioner (CPP) accepts consult and completes chart review

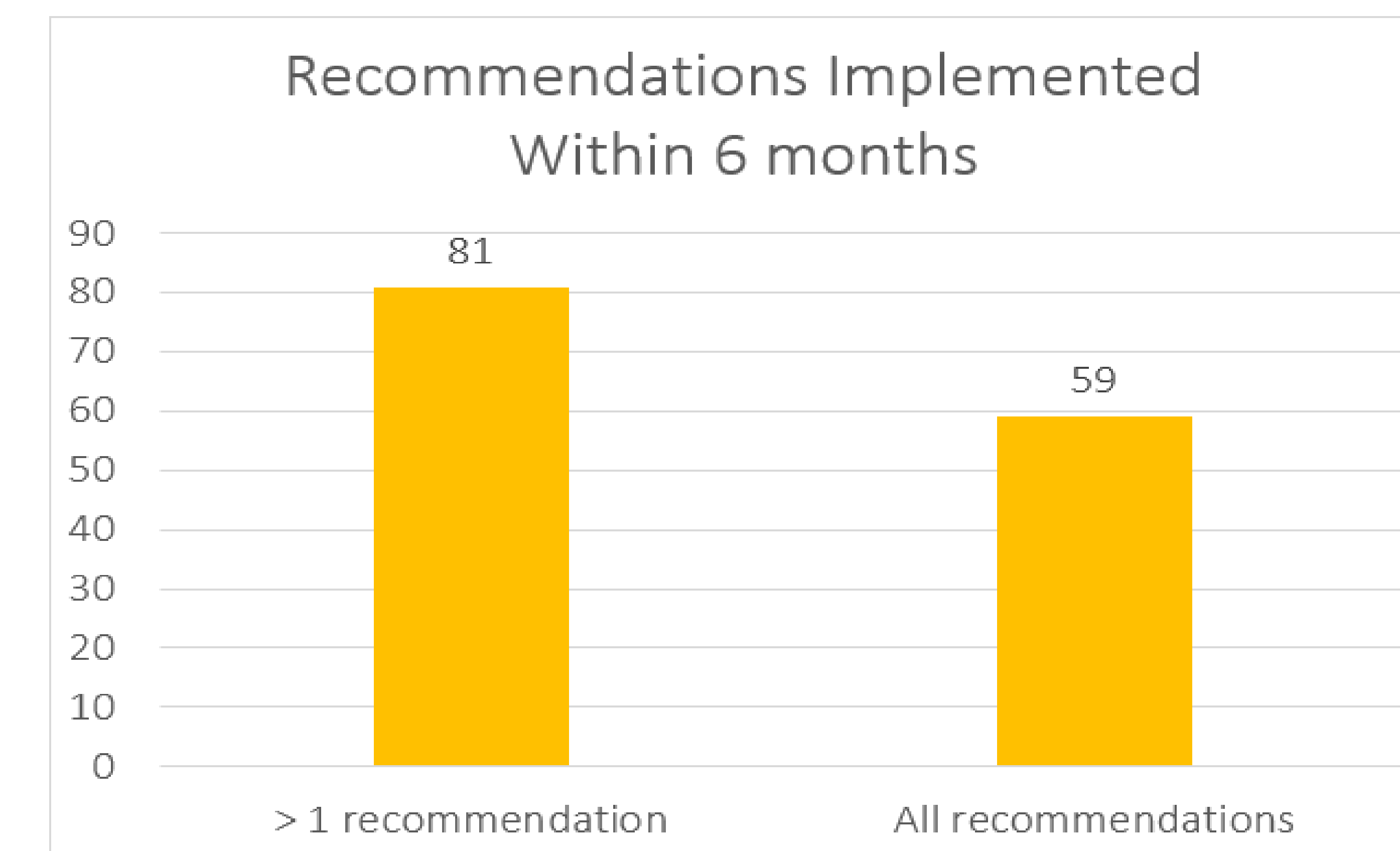
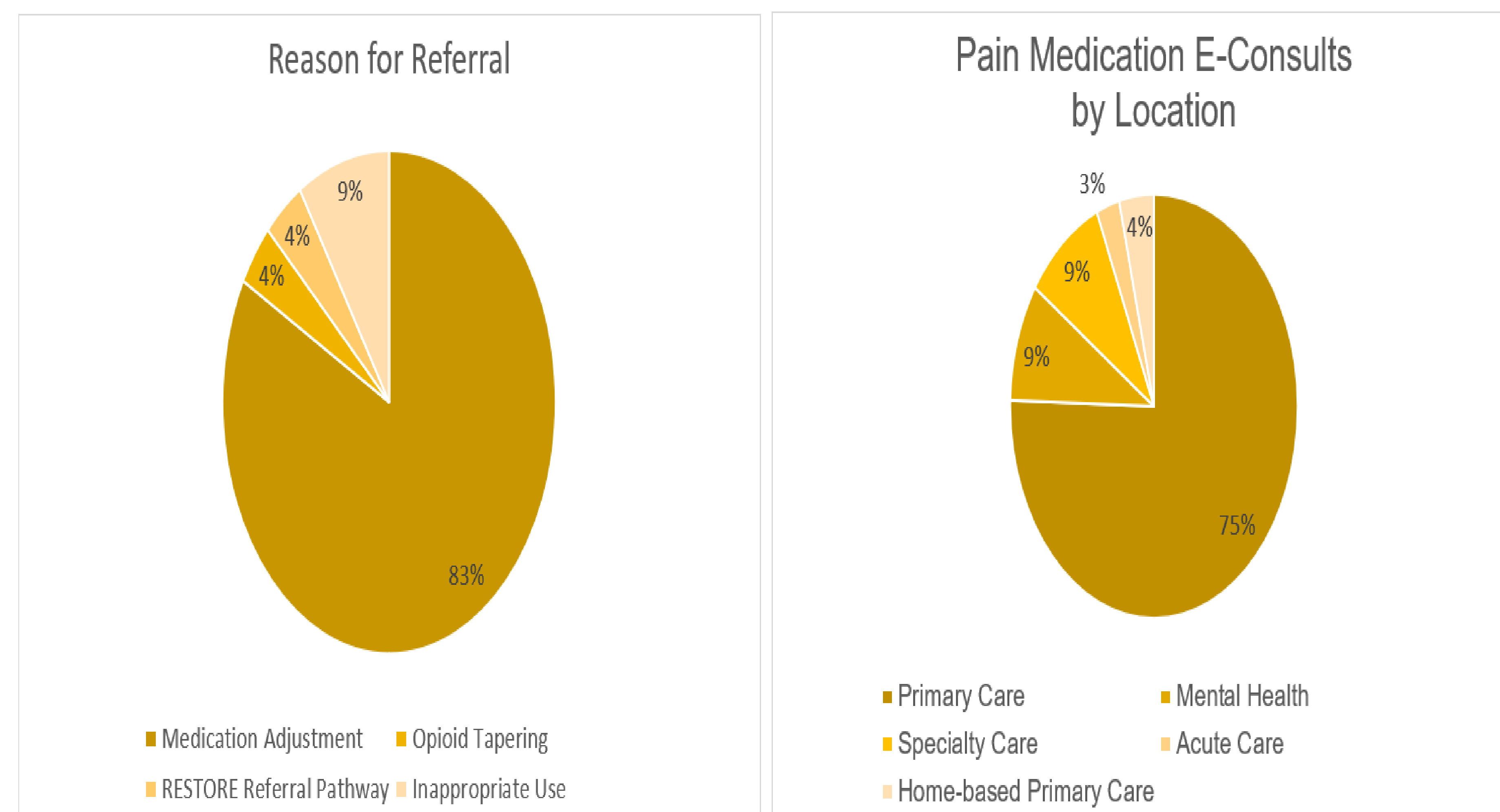
Medication Recommendations Placed in the Veteran's EMR and Referring Provider is Alerted

Participants

- Included: 77 Veterans whose provider placed a pain medication e-consult at the Salem VA HCS between 01/01/2022 thru 01/06/2023.
- Excluded: Veterans who had a Pain Medication E-consult placed but then forwarded to another consult

Demographic Information	
Mean Age	60.25 (30-91)
% Male	84.21
% White	86.84

Results



Conclusions

- Most providers followed through with at least one recommendation made by the CPP regarding initiating, tapering, or discontinuing pain medications and half followed through with all recommendations made
- A significant percentage of consults were used inappropriately, prompting the need for more education to providers
- Chronic pain is a debilitating condition that affects the majority of the veteran population but pharmacists can play an important role in improving chronic pain management by offering tailored medication recommendations via e-consults, particularly in rural VA settings