

Integrating Pharmacists into a Palliative Medicine Team at a Community Hospital

Dharma Naidu, PharmD, BCOP; Christine Short, RN; Ethan Howe, NP, Kacie Boyce, RN, Kim Jones, PharmD; John Juster, MSW, Chris Williams, M.Div; John Hausdorff, MD, FACP.
Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, Monterey CA



Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula located in Monterey, California is a nonprofit hospital with 258 beds. Joint Commission Certification was achieved in October 2014.



The Palliative Medicine Service interdisciplinary team consists of:

- ❖ Physician / Medical Director
- ❖ Administrator Director
- ❖ Nurse Practitioner
- ❖ Nurse / Coordinator
- ❖ Pharmacist
- ❖ Social Worker / MFT
- ❖ Chaplain
- ❖ Administrative Assistant

Background

With limited palliative trained physicians available at the community hospital level, CHOMP opted to initiate a NP and pharmacist palliative model, supported by a medical director. The expanded role of clinical pharmacists trained in pain and palliative care through the American Society of Health-System Pharmacist (ASHP) allowed the program to offer robust 24/7 pain and symptom management. Our palliative pharmacists work alongside the palliative team and attending physicians.

Pharmacist Role

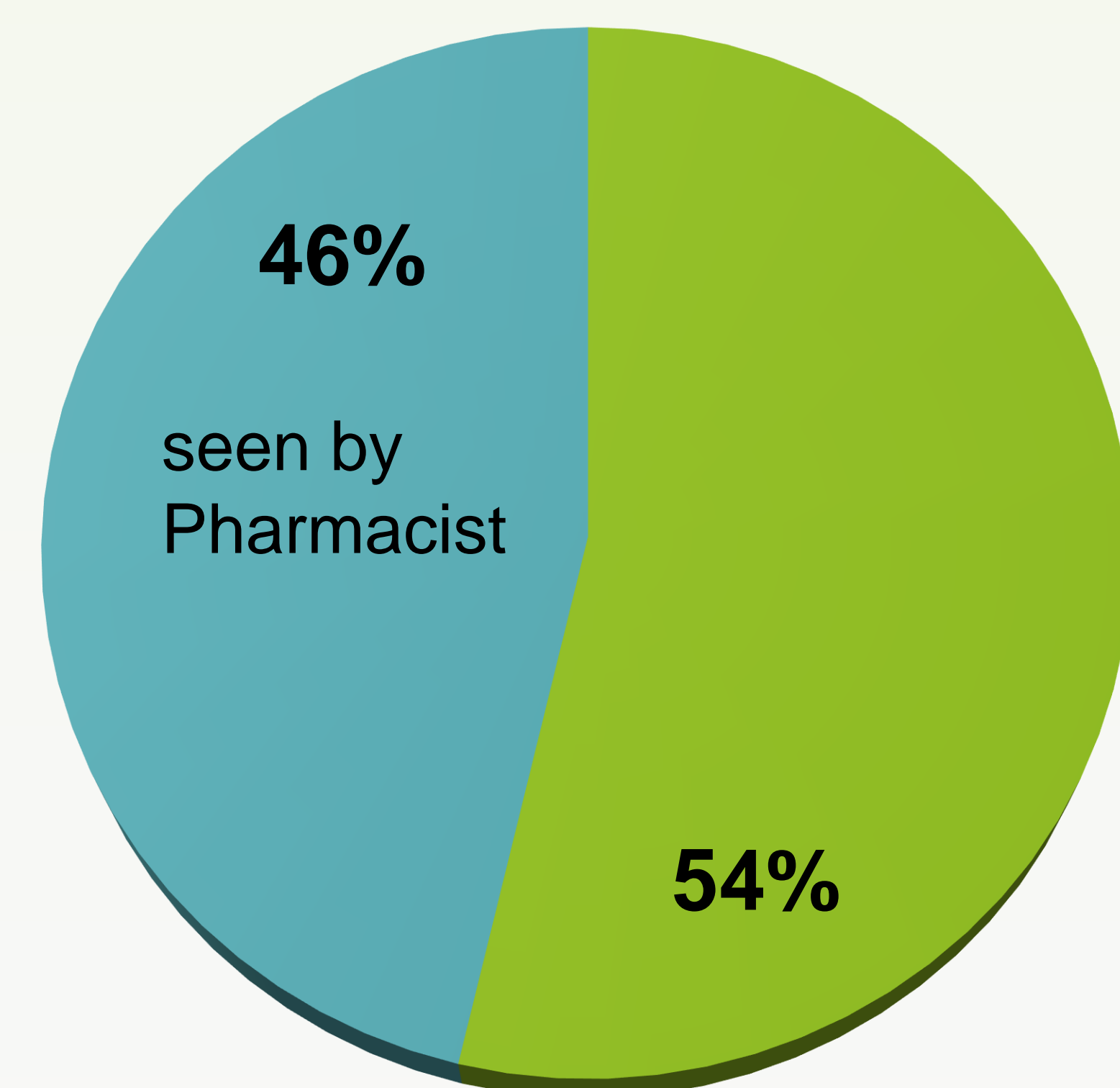
- ❖ Pain & symptom management referrals – triaged first
- ❖ Lead on end-of-life (comfort) care patients
- ❖ Code status & goals of care discussion – assisting patient / families with completion of POLST & advance healthcare directives.
- ❖ Participate in Family Meetings
- ❖ Attend Palliative IDG

Organization Support

- ❖ Pharmacy Pain Protocol established for the last 17 years.
- ❖ Pharmacy supports the Pain Protocol 24/7. (Palliative pharmacist hands off patient to hospital pain protocol pharmacist.)
- ❖ Pharmacy allocates 1.0 FTE to the Palliative program. (Mon-Fri)

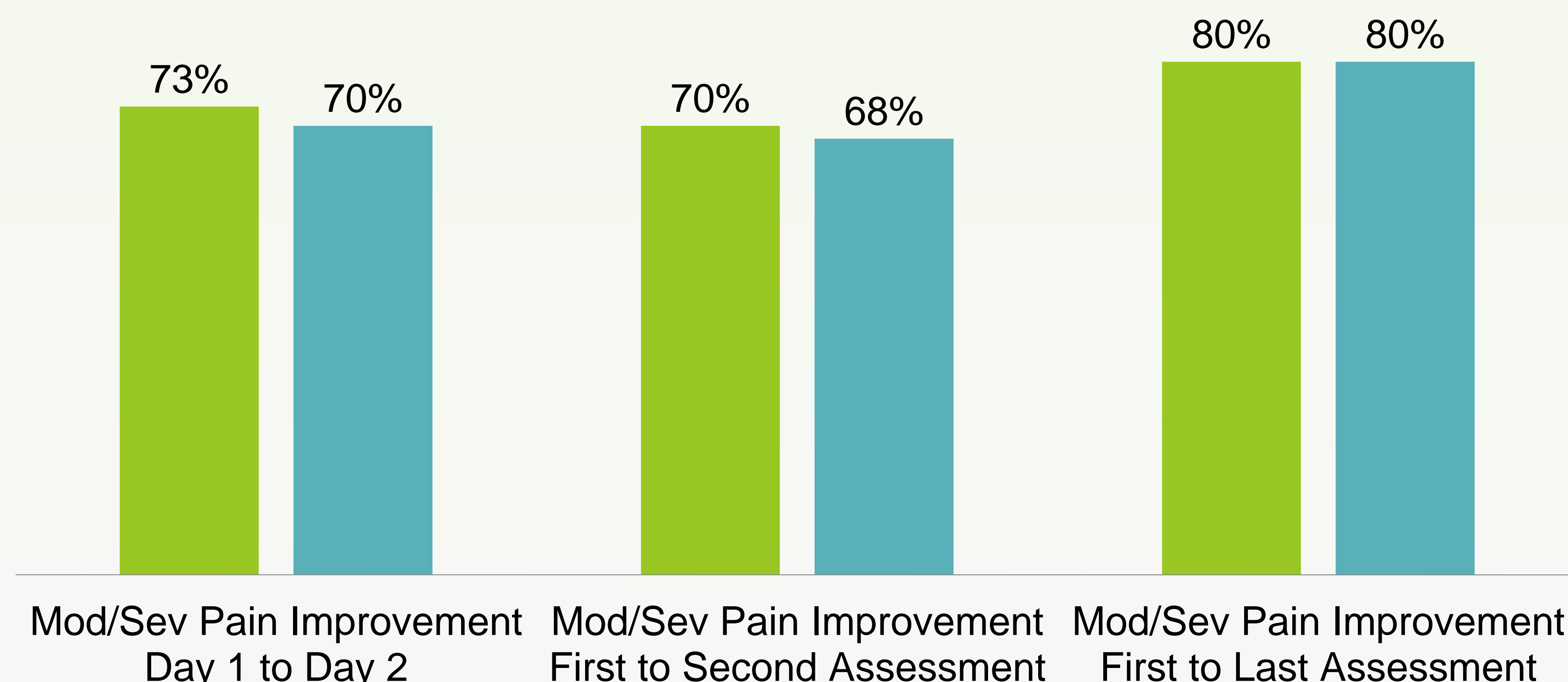
Results

Patients seen by Palliative Medicine
10/1/14 – 9/30/15
1095 patients



Pharmacy Pain Protocol Pain Assessment Results

■ CHOMP 10/1/14-9/30/15 ■ PCQN - Palliative Care Quality Network 2015 Data - 8145 Consults



% of consults with MD: CHOMP 15% PCQN 62%



Conclusion

- ❖ Pharmacy, through the trained palliative pharmacist and pain protocol, provide the same level of pain and symptom management for the palliative patients screening positive for moderate or service pain or symptoms.
- ❖ In-house 24/7 pain management is available to palliative patients.
- ❖ Trained palliative pharmacist's roles can be successfully expanded beyond strictly pain and symptom management and can include goals of care discussions, family meeting and advance care planning.