

Medication access difficulties for patients dispensing with internal health system specialty pharmacies versus external specialty pharmacies

Victor Nguyen, PharmD Candidate, Jessica Mourani, PharmD, Ashley Blaakman, PharmD, Casey Fitzpatrick, PharmD, BCPS



BACKGROUND

- High costs, insurance coverage restrictions, prior authorizations, and drug availability are some common barriers that patients experience for initial and continued access to specialty medications.
- Medication access difficulties can lead to increased out-of-pocket costs¹ for patients as well as worsening of disease or death.²
- Pharmacists positively impact medication adherence by providing patient counseling, monitoring the safety and efficacy of therapies, and assisting patients with medical assistance program enrollment.
- With the health system specialty pharmacy (HSSP) model, pharmacists are integrated within a health system where they can access electronic health records, assess therapies, and expedite communication with health care providers, leading to more timely care, higher quality of care, improved patient safety, and cost savings.³
- For the purposes of this study, a pharmacy miss was defined as any medication access difficulty that resulted in a delay or interruption in therapy and not documented as one of the following:
- Change in prescriber
 - Drug shortage
 - Limited distribution drug
 - Patient unreachable
 - Proactive pharmacist intervention
 - Natural disaster
 - Patient or provider oversight
 - Hospitalization/facility admission

OBJECTIVE

- The primary objective of this study is to evaluate the impact of HSSPs in alleviating medication access difficulties for patients prescribed specialty medications.

METHODS

Design	Multicenter retrospective descriptive analysis evaluating medication access difficulty interventions for patients prescribed specialty medications via Trellis Rx's clinical dashboards
Setting	Trellis Rx partner sites
Study Period	February 23, 2021, to June 22, 2022
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of access difficulty interventions completed by pharmacists• Number of access difficulty interventions due to internal HSSP misses• Number of access difficulty interventions due to external specialty pharmacy misses
Analysis	Descriptive statistics analyzing percentage of access difficulty interventions between the two groups. All pharmacist intervention data was collected from Trellis Rx's interventions dashboard.

RESULTS

FIGURE 1: Intervention Disposition

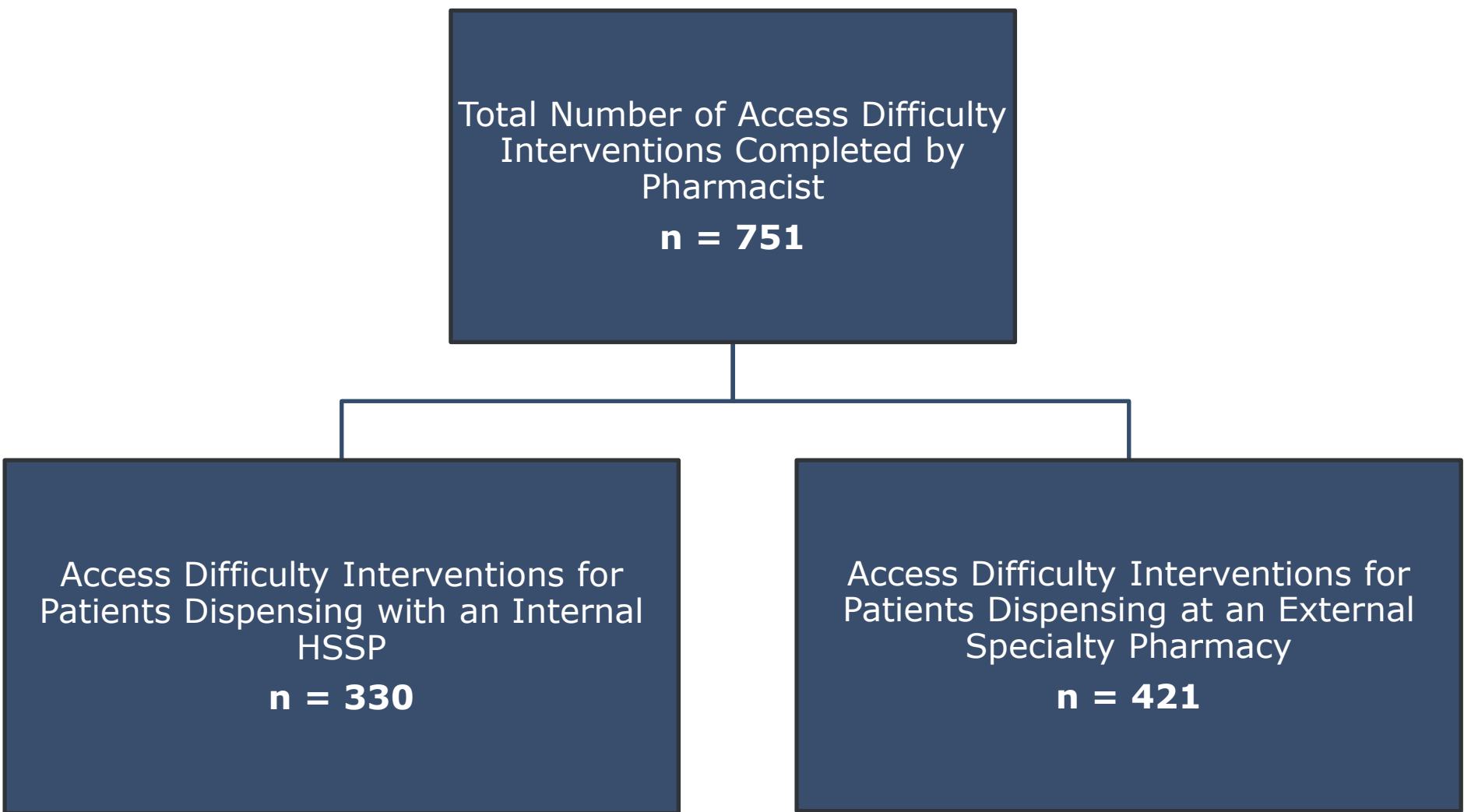
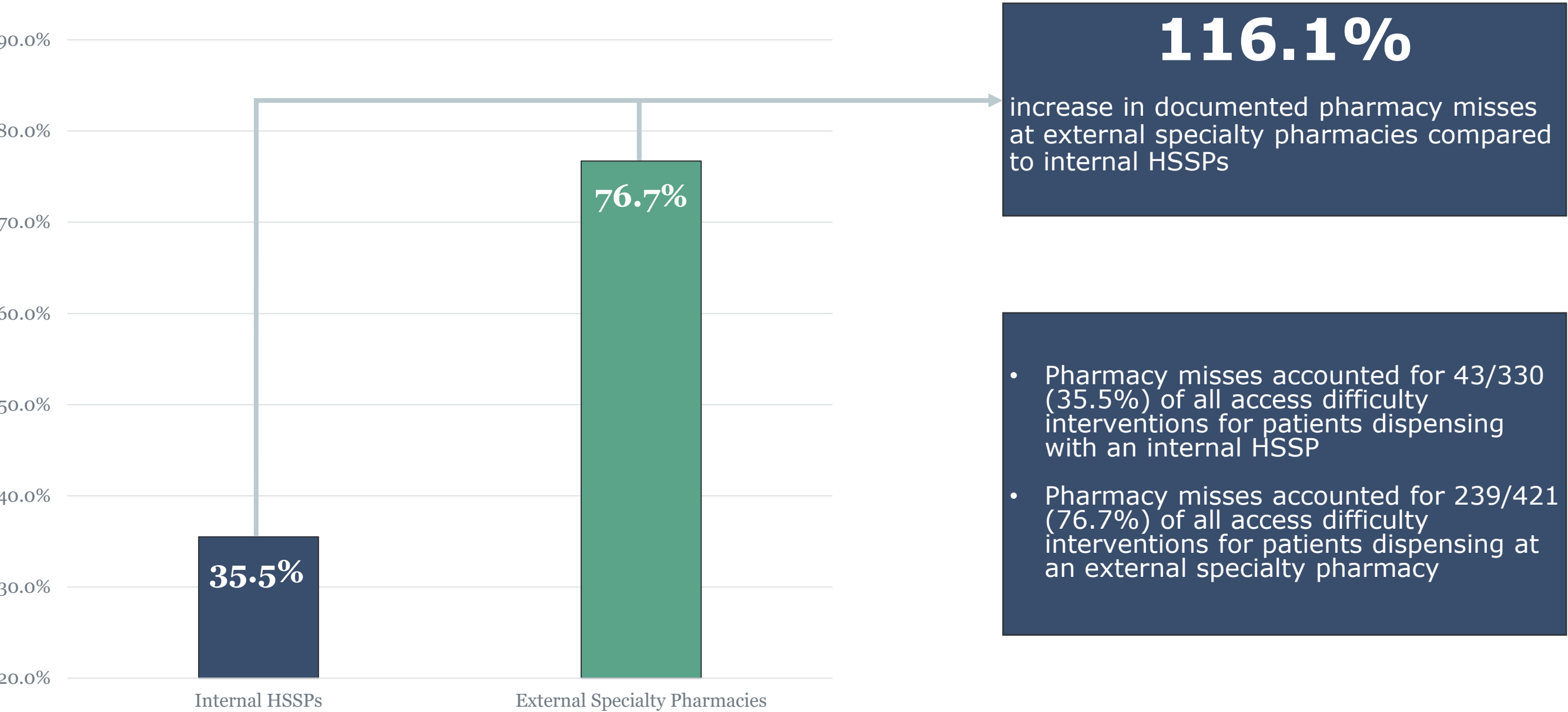
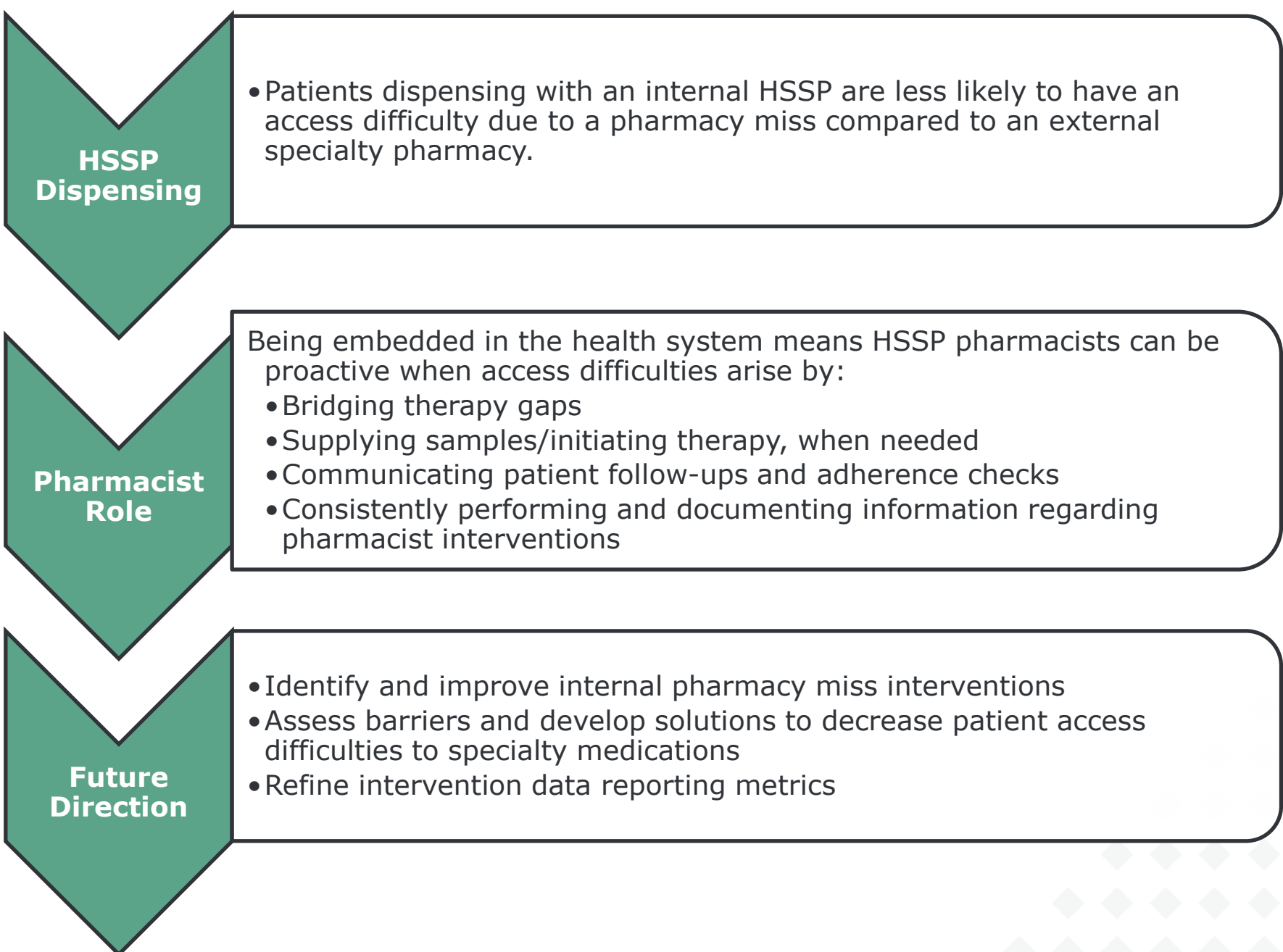


FIGURE 2: % of Access Difficulties as Pharmacy Misses



CONCLUSIONS



DISCUSSION

- This project illustrates the impact of Trellis Rx's HSSP model on decreasing medication access difficulties for patients prescribed a specialty medication.
- Consistent intervention documentation by HSSP pharmacists and subsequent data review via Trellis Rx clinical dashboards promote proactive quality improvement initiatives that enhance patient care.
- Pharmacists integrated within the health system are uniquely positioned to address medication adherence difficulties as they arise, leading to a higher quality of care for patients.

REFERENCES

1. Goldman DP, Joyce GF, Zheng Y. Prescription drug cost sharing: associations with medication and medical utilization and spending and health. *JAMA*. 2007;298(1):61-69.
2. Jimmy B, Jose J. Patient medication adherence: Measures in daily practice. *Oman Med J*. 2011;26(3):155-159.
3. Zuckerman AD, Whelchel K, Kozlicki M, et al. Health-system specialty pharmacy role and outcomes: A review of current literature. *Am J Health Syst Pharm*. 2022;79(21):1906-1918.