

Medicare Part D Outreach in San Diego On December 2, 2007: A timely service for the Community

The Medicare Part D Outreach at the Vietnamese Federation of San Diego on December 2, 2007 was a success thanks to the wonderful work of all the participants.

The program stemmed from the Partners in D state wide initiative, through which student and community based pharmacists help seniors and health professionals navigate the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage program, also known as Medicare Part D.

After over three months of planning, the project took off from this very location which provided optimal access to the targeted population.

On the day before, faculty members Dr Jagwant Rai and Sally Smith, and the UCSD Student Pharmacists: Shawna Kobayashi, Helen Le, Wendy Dinh and friend, and Steven Chen came to get the place ready, collate survey forms, set up tables for refreshments, and hang the banner at a prominent place by the entrance door. They did not leave until 7 PM.

Early on Sunday, students were briefed on the outreach procedures by the preceptors..

At 10:15 AM, Mr. Tiet Tran, President of the Vietnamese Federation welcomed the audience and thanked the faculty of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences for bringing this much needed service to the community.

Dr Shirley Tsunoda, Principal Investigator, presented the circumstances of the grant allowing the schools of pharmacy in California to teach the course on Medicare Part D, and gave appreciation to the faculty members who collaborated in the teaching; and to the members of the Vietnamese community, especially Binh Tran, for their support and collaboration.

Binh Tran explained to the audience and gave an overview of the program in Vietnamese. The PowerPoint slides on Medicare Part D: What you need to know for 2008 devised by the Partners in D from the UCSF School of Pharmacy and recently translated into Vietnamese were shown continuously during the day.

Sally briefed on the order of the patients to be called in for the one-to-one counseling sessions. Dr Jag Rai reminded the patients to show their Medicare cards and the list of current medications. All faculty members stayed on site to provide answers to questions raised by the students and audience.

Nearly 40 patients showed up, who have pre-registered, or just came on that day.

Each went through a Medicare Outreach Patient Survey MOPS 1 with a pharmacy student, and a MOPS 2 with a different student. The 16 students in the class conducted the interviews, assisted by translators - mostly members of the Vietnamese Federation - if they do not speak the language. Every patient got a print-out list of the suggested medication changes for the year 2008 to help keep the costs down.

Food and refreshments were available to all attendees as they waited for their turn to be surveyed. Small gift items were offered, compliment of the Asian Pacific Health Center .

There was a good turn-out of patients and members in the community. Pharmacist Tien Bui, who first suggested the usefulness of discussions on the topic of Medicare Part D for the residents of San Diego, was present during the program. He and pharmacist Toan Huynh who helped call the patients as their turn arrived, were former Presidents of the Federation.

We thank the UCSD Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty and students for providing this excellent program to the Vietnamese community in San Diego, and welcome similar activities in the future.

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List of participants:

Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Faculty:

Shirley Tsunoda, PharmD, Assistant Clinical Professor

Jagwant Rai, PharmD, Assistant Clinical Professor
Sally Smith, RPh, Regional Director, Vons Pharmacies

Binh N. Tran, PharmD, Assistant Clinical Professor
David Adler, PharmD, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Advisor

Student Pharmacists:

Lillie Allinson

Andrea Backes

Ivy Beck

Daisy Chang

Steven Chen

Maggie Ching

Wendy Dinh

Shawna Kobayashi

Helen Le

Celeste Mangune

Diem Nguyen

Son Hai Nguyen

Xiaoying Quan

Vy Thuy Tran

Don (Dung) Vu

Vivian Yeung

Asian Pacific Health Center :

Ton Tran , MD , Medical Director

Binh N. Tran, PharmD, Executive Director

Vietnamese Federation of San Diego :

Tiet Tran, President

Tien Bui, R.Ph., Former President

Toan Huynh, R.Ph., Former President

Diana Tran, Vice-President

Lan Le, General Secretary

Son Tran, Former Vice-President

Le T Nguyen, Protocol Committee
and other volunteers

Viet PBS Channel

Vons Pharmacies

