

Bridging the Gap: Characterization of a Dual Pharmacist Role in Drug Information and Investigational Drug Services

Lauren Karel, PharmD, BCPS; Rania Sadaka, PharmD; Cindy Wordell, PharmD, BCPS, FASHP

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA

Background

- Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (TJUH) is a tertiary academic medical center with 951 licensed beds
- TJUH offers a wide variety of clinical services, as well as multiple residency programs including a PGY2 specialty residency in Drug Information
- The Investigational Drug Service (IDS) at TJUH is responsible for the procurement, storage, dispensing and maintenance of records for inpatient and outpatient clinical trials
 - IDS pharmacy staff ensure study drug medication safety, patient safety, and local, state, national, and federal regulatory compliance for all investigational drug research

Comparison of IDS staffing levels since the creation of this service in FY1990.

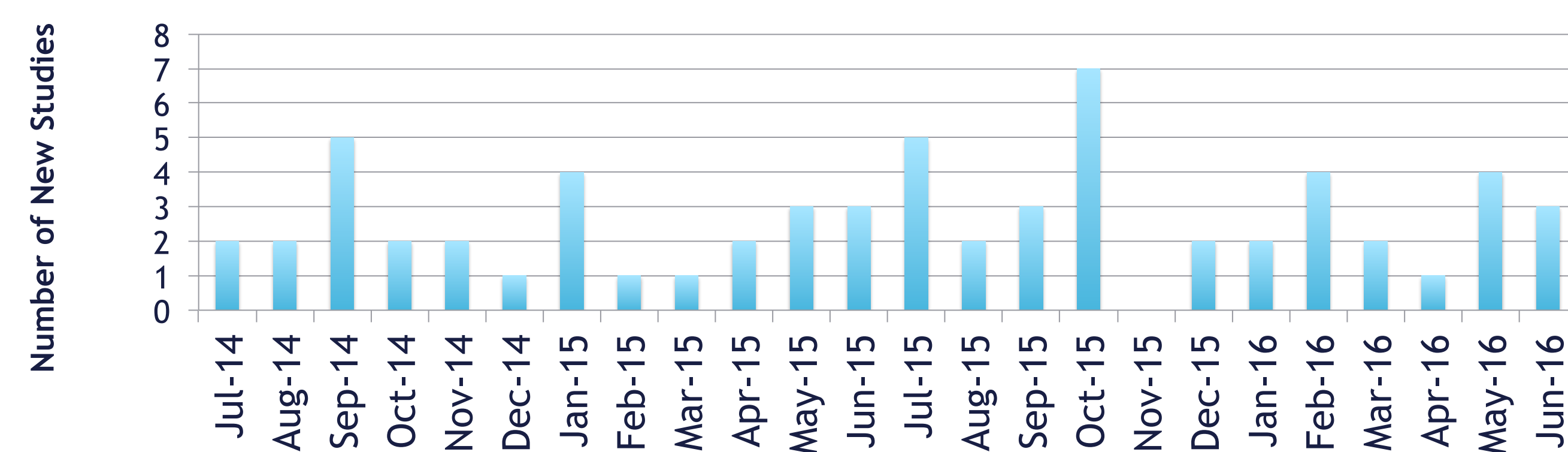
	FY1990	FY2006	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
Pharmacist	1	2	2	2	4*
Pharmacy technician	0	0	0.33	1	1
TOTAL	1	2	2.33	3	5

*Includes approval of two new IDS positions

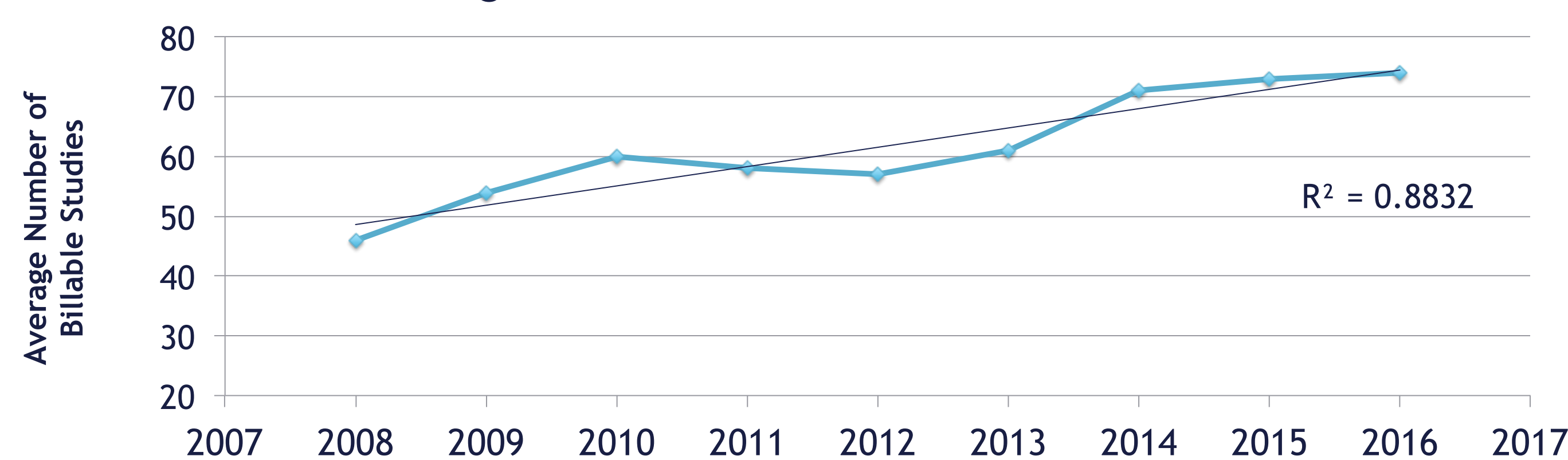
Purpose

- IDS pharmacies have seen a substantial rise in activity due to increased initiation of clinical studies.

Initiation of New Studies



Average Number of Billable Studies vs Time



- The purpose of this report is to describe the development of a unique position in pharmacy practice that leverages the knowledge and skill set of a drug information pharmacist in improving Investigational Drug Service workflow and function.

Methods

- A drug information pharmacy specialist was deployed to the IDS pharmacy for orientation and intensive training. Job functions reviewed included investigational product dispensing, inventory management, budget preparation, and administrative roles.
- Following training, the drug information pharmacist participated in updating standard operating procedures, redesigning workflow, study protocol review, and pharmacy student and resident experiential education.

Role 1 - Pharmacy education

Pharmacy student didactic teaching

- Drug Information and Literature Evaluation course
- Institutional review board and informed consent
- Drug approval process
- Clinical trial design

Pharmacy student rotations

- Incorporation of IDS activities with hospital IPPE rotation (P2)
- Sharing of APPE students between DI and IDS (P4)

Summer independent study

- Main project: Develop proposal for IDS summer internship program
- Vizient member survey for IDS-related activities

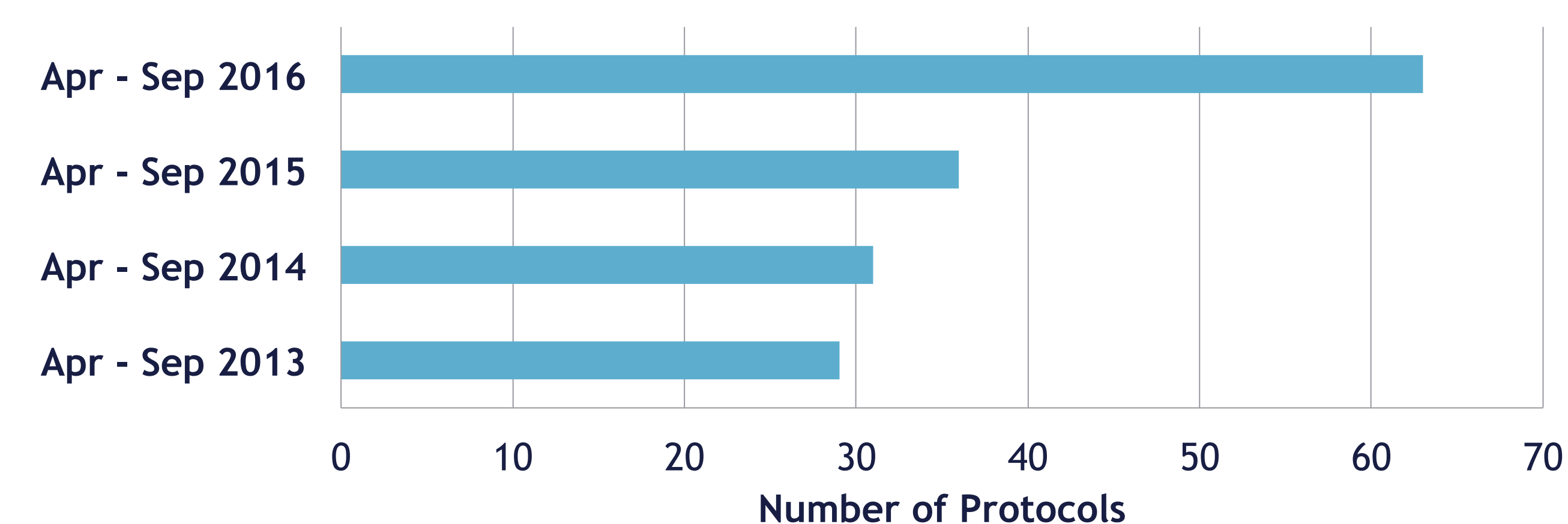
Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee

- Involvement in formulary review and provider education of recently approved medications previously studied in IDS
- Develop continuing education programs within the pharmacy department

Role 2 - Accelerated protocol review

- Consistent involvement in committee work
 - Performance Improvement
 - Protocol Facilitation Committee
- Increased turnaround time for urgent review of protocols

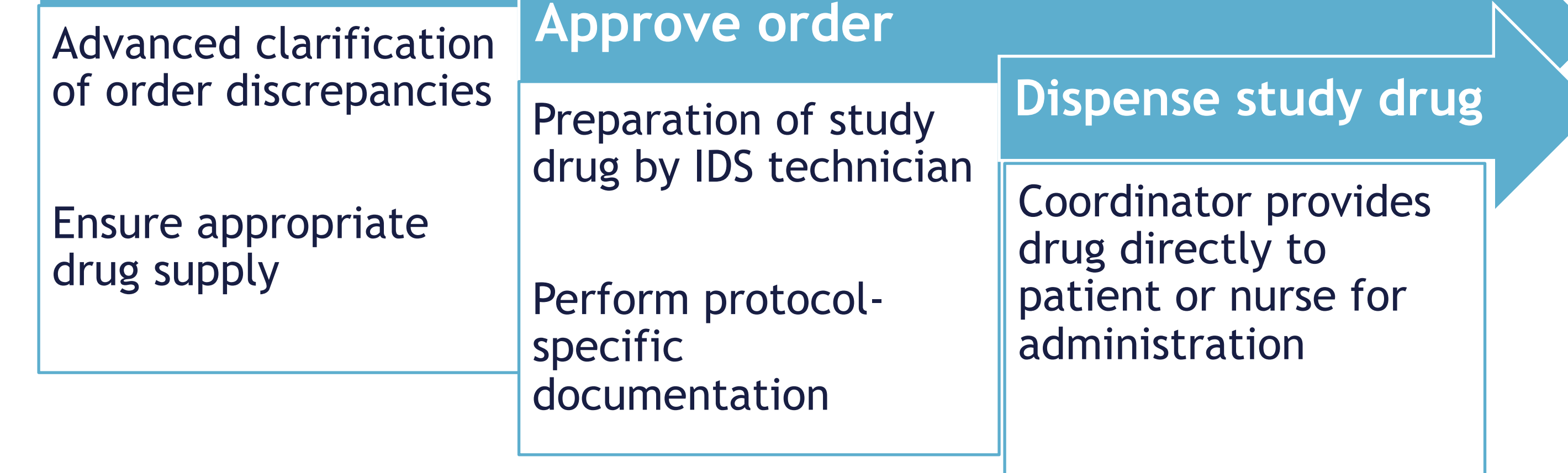
Protocols Reviewed



Role 3 - Standardized workflow

- Fifteen standard operating procedures were created to standardize workflow and to aid in incorporation of newly added Jefferson partners
- Incorporation of lean methodology to aid in standardization and increased efficiency
 - Revision of pharmacy source documents using '5S' technique
 - Checklist for pharmacy resident training
 - Development of an IDS pharmacist training process
 - Inventory worksheets to prompt drug ordering

48-hour order review



Next steps

- Increased involvement with pharmacy school activities (ie student internship program)
- Continue IDS cross-training with oncology service line
- Integration of IDS services with Abington and Aria sites

Conclusion

Drug Information pharmacists play a vital role in many activities that include educating pharmacists, preparing staff reference materials, responding to information queries, and managing formularies and medication use policies. Although revenue generating, Investigational Drug Services are historically understaffed. Expanding Drug Information Services to support Investigational Drug Service operations is a valuable resource to foster growth in this unique pharmacy practice site.

References

Available on request.

Disclosures

Lauren Karel, Rania Sadaka, and Cindy Wordell have nothing to disclose concerning possible financial or personal relationships with commercial entities that may have direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation.