The project objective was to develop, test, evaluate and disseminate a national medication safety ‘checklist’ for use by patients and healthcare providers.

**BACKGROUND**

Patients are the constant in every transition of care and can be at high risk of adverse drug events, particularly at discharge from hospital to home. Knowing the questions to ask will empower patients to be an active partner in their health and can help to mitigate risk of harm from medications.

**OBJECTIVES**

The project objective was to develop, test, evaluate and disseminate a national medication safety ‘checklist’ for use by patients and healthcare providers.

**METHODS**

The development and dissemination of the campaign was achieved by:

- Conducting an environmental scan of best practices, tools and evidence and forming an advisory group of patients and representatives
- Co-designing and testing the list of questions with patients and obtained external stakeholder feedback through an online survey
- Creating the ‘5 Questions’ through PDSA cycles and small tests of change.

**RESULTS**

A national online survey of patients and healthcare providers (n=291):

- **85%** of patients would feel comfortable asking their healthcare provider the ‘5 Questions’.
- **75%** of patients responded that the answers to these ‘5 Questions’ would be very useful to help them understand their medications.
- **84%** of healthcare providers would be willing to answer their patient’s ‘5 Questions’.

Over 150 Canadian organizations, at local, provincial and national levels have formally endorsed ‘5 Questions’ and implemented programs to increase reach and dissemination.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The ‘5 Questions’ with visible organization endorsements and translation in 22 languages has demonstrated a shared interest in empowering patients.

These questions may be a useful counselling framework or teach-back tool to help hospital pharmacists communicate more effectively with patients so they can better understand how to safely use their medications before they leave the hospital.

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Disclosures

Authors of this poster have nothing to disclose concerning possible personal or financial relationships with commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation.