

Executive Summary

With new and emerging therapies for multiple acute and chronic disease states coming in the form of intravenous infusions, access to infusion services is required to receive these medications. Pharmacies have been identified as one of the new areas where these services can be provided. Pharmacists are specialized in handling medications of all kinds, have knowledge of interactions, and can predict and address potential infusion-related reactions. These qualities make pharmacies great options to house ambulatory infusion services. Additionally, patients are already comfortable utilizing existing pharmacy services. When looking at the cost discrepancy between hospital-based, outpatient, and home infusion, it is clear that something must be done to allow more patients to utilize these services in a cost-effective way.

Our plan is to create an area within our existing pharmacy to provide infusion-related services in order to mitigate these cost concerns and provide advanced access to care in our rural setting. The main source of customers will come from patients in the surrounding areas. The pharmacy already offers compounding services, so USP 795 has already been established; however, for sterile compounding, USP 797 standards would need to be met. Meeting these standards, purchasing equipment, and hiring an infusion nurse are the only additional criteria the pharmacy requires. The pharmacy has chosen to gain accreditation through ACHC due to the slightly expedited process compared to other accrediting bodies. Reimbursement will be collected through private third-party payers as well as Medicare and Medicaid programs.

A SWOT analysis will be conducted in order to identify areas of strength and weakness. Once this is completed, the pharmacy will be able to troubleshoot and predict pitfalls from the business side. The exit strategy is straightforward: any supplies that can be returned will be and anything else will be sold or donated to local hospitals, clinics, and infusion sites. The goal of implementing infusion services is to promote the health of individuals living within the surrounding areas and to showcase the vast abilities of pharmacists.