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EHR is "Game-Changer" in Patient Care

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- Allowing pharmacies to have access to electronic patient medical records is a game-changer in health care. And, at the forefront of this new development in Ohio is [CedarCare Village Pharmacy](#) director Dr. Justin Coby.

Coby's research into the benefits of electronic health records (EHR), with assistance from Dr. [Martha Abraham](#), instructor of pharmacy practice, and Zach Krauss, a [Doctor of Pharmacy](#) fourth-year student, is expected to provide faster and more holistic health care to patients.

The research found that the most common interventions made possible through access to EHR included cardiovascular, endocrinologic, neuropsychiatric and COVID-19 therapy medications. CedarCare is currently beta testing the idea, hoping to fully integrate it in the future.

"We are more interested in the holistic care of a patient than just filling their pills," said Coby. "By understanding all the needs of a patient coming through, we can offer a higher level of service than a typical pharmacy."

Further findings found that 62.4% of patients would benefit from EHR access and searching by community pharmacies. Having access to these records would mean community pharmacies could provide care outside of simply filling prescriptions.

"Having these records can be vitally important for patient health care," said Coby. "The real value is in the time to treat a patient. With EHR, we can look at labs to identify if someone is a diabetic and needs to be on medication for cholesterol or start a COVID-19 patient on antivirals as soon as possible. The desire is to get patients' care before a doctor's visit, so that they recover sooner and are less at risk of getting worse."

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 5,082 undergraduate, graduate, and dual-enrolled high school students in more than 175 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is one of the largest private universities in Ohio, recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, including the [Doctor of Pharmacy](#) program, high graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and the #4 national ranking by the Wall Street Journal for student engagement. For more information about the University, visit cedarville.edu.

Written by Alex Boesch

Photo captions:

1- Dr. Justin Coby.

2- Dr. Justin Coby assists patients with finding a medication.

Photos by Scott Huck, Cedarville University