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OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Effect of a Pharmacist Intervention in Spanish Community Pharmacies on Blood Pressure Control in Hypertensive Patients
A greater percentage of hypertensive patients who participated in a protocol-based pharmacist intervention through their community pharmacy instead of receiving usual care had their blood pressure under control in 20 weeks. The intervention consisted of patient education about hypertension, home blood pressure monitoring by the patients, and referral to a physician through personalized reports when necessary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>p</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fraction (%) pts with controlled BP at end of study</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intervention group</td>
<td>25/41 (61.0)</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control group</td>
<td>11/44 (25.0)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference between adjusted mean changes for SBP, mm Hg (95% CI)</td>
<td>11.0 (6.2–15.8)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference between adjusted mean changes for DBP, mm Hg (95% CI)</td>
<td>5.9 (2.7–9.1)</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*SBP = systolic blood pressure, DBP = diastolic blood pressure, CI = confidence interval.

Stem Cell Transplantation for Treatment of Sickle Cell Disease: Bone Marrow Versus Cord Blood Transplants
Deciding which patients with sickle cell disease should undergo stem cell transplantation remains part art and part science. And for those patients selected to undergo a transplantation, the path forward is unclear for deciding the source of the stem cells, selecting the optimal preparative regimen, and choosing the type of regimen to prevent graft-versus-host disease.

Encephalopathy Associated With Metoclopramide Use in a Patient With Parkinson’s Disease
After receiving three 10-mg doses of metoclopramide within 12 hours to stimulate gastrointestinal motility after colon resection, a 79-year-old man with Parkinson’s disease was found completely unresponsive in his hospital bed. An electroencephalogram showed activity consistent with acute metabolic encephalopathy. With no further exposure to metoclopramide, the man’s mental status gradually improved.

Leadership at All Levels
Practice change will occur only if health-system pharmacists at all levels exert leadership in that effort, the 2011 John W. Webb Lecture Award recipient asserts. Pharmacy residents, frontline pharmacists, coordinators, managers, and senior pharmacy leaders are critical to changing a health system’s model of pharmacy practice.