

Jefferson Faculty Member Quoted in Article, Philadelphia, PA – JAN 11, 2011

Laura T. Pizzi, PharmD, MPH, Associate Professor at Thomas Jefferson University's School of Pharmacy and media advisor for American Pharmacists Association, was quoted in the article, "Improving Pharmacy quality: On-site performance measures," for *Drug Topics*, a newsmagazine for pharmacists, on November 15, 2010. Pizzi is co-director of an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA) medication-use demonstration project. The article discussed the presentation and reporting of the project's Phase I evaluation findings at the annual AHRQ meeting in September 2010.

The objective of the AHRQ grant was to evaluate quality measures which rate how well community pharmacies perform, as well as to determine the feasibility of reporting pharmacy quality based on infrastructural and personnel resource requirements. Pizzi said, "the findings indicate that it is feasible to run these quality measures using prescription data to automate reporting and to train pharmacists on interpretation of the resulting reports." The next phase is to determine whether pharmacists can improve quality by intervening with patients and prescribers. She says it is likely that pharmacists will be held accountable for healthcare quality, as service-related roles increase.

Pizzi has been with Jefferson since February 2001, starting in the Office of Health Policy, and later as Program Director of Applied Health Economics at the Jefferson School of Population Health. A pharmacist by training, Pizzi primarily specializes in pharmaceutical economics and policy and she is now the first faculty member to focus on that topic at the Jefferson School of Pharmacy.

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