Pharmacy Next: Health Consumer Medication Trends

As the healthcare industry and medication prescribing in the United States continue to decentralize, a recent survey commissioned by Wolters Kluwer demonstrates consumers are open to extending trust beyond traditional clinic settings – if it means lower costs and improved outcomes.

More than 2 out of 5 Americans chose not to fill a prescription because of cost over the past few years.

Openness to new ways of lowering costs

Cost is a barrier to accessible medication for many Americans - many are open to different ways of lowering costs without compromising safety.

- 65% Consumers who say medication prices have increased over the past few years
- 77% Consumers who believe many widely used prescription drugs should be over the counter
- 77% Consumers who prefer to receive medications by mail if it meant lower costs

Extending medication support beyond the clinic

The role of the pharmacist has evolved in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and consumers see them as an extension of their primary care.

- 97% Consumers who believe pharmacists have responsibility for informing them about medication safety and/or effectiveness
- 78% Consumers willing to receive medication advice from a clinician other than a primary care physician
- 61% Consumers believe in 5 years, most primary care services will be provided at pharmacies, retail clinics, or pharmacy clinics, not at doctor’s office

1/2 of consumers are worried about problems or errors because pharmacy is understaffed

Consumers open to genomic testing

Once defined, many Americans would be open to genomic analysis to support safer, more effective, personalized medication prescribing.

- 72% Consumers likely willing to provide a blood sample for genomic analysis to personalize medical care
- 68% Consumers who believe their individual genomic information could effectively guide prescription decisions

The survey included 1,006 U.S. adults, 18 and older and is weighted by age, gender, household income, and education to be representative of the total U.S. population according to the U.S. Census Bureau. This survey was conducted online between September 19 – 26, 2022.