

## **Study Results: Use of MEDSCHECK program among RA patients**

**Authors:** Kelkar A, Couto S, Jacob B, Bombardier C.

MedsCheck is an OHIP covered service designed to help patients understand and manage their medications. The program allows patients taking three or more prescription medications for a chronic condition to schedule a one-to-one meeting with their community pharmacist.

733 of 2081 OBRI patients were identified as suffering from three or more chronic medical conditions (at baseline). Of those, 105 patients were contacted by telephone for a survey to determine their use of MedsCheck. The average age of the patients was 62.4, 69% were female and their disease activity was determined (on average) to be moderate. Thirty two percent of interviewed patients had participated in MedsCheck and of those 88% reported the meeting to have taken 15-30 min. Of the interviewed patients 41% reported to have found the review to be extremely effective (10 on a 1-10 effectiveness scale) in addressing their medical concerns and 79% reported no interest in a program solely focused on reviewing arthritis medications.

These study results indicate that the Ontario MedsCheck program is underutilized and because a good proportion of patients found it useful, there is a need to increase awareness of it.