

Assessing The Impact of Pharmacists Knowledge and Attitudes on Medication Dispensing Practices And Patient Safety in Community Pharmacies “



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Objective

- To Assess the level of knowledge and attitudes of pharmacists regarding medication dispensing practices
- To analyze the impact of pharmacist's knowledge on the accuracy and safety of medication dispensing
- To explore the relationship between pharmacist's attitudes and their dispensing practices
- To identify barriers to optimal medication dispensing practices in community pharmacies

Introduction



Who is Pharmacist ?

A pharmacist is a healthcare professional who specializes in the preparation, dispensation, and appropriate use of medications. They are experts in pharmaceuticals and work in various settings, including community pharmacies, hospitals, clinics, and research institutions. Pharmacists ensure that patients receive the correct medications in the right dosage, provide information about side effects and interactions, and play a crucial role in promoting health and wellness through medication management.



Why Medication Safety is needed ?

For reducing error and harm from medicine through safe and quality use of medicines

It also help us to achieve our objective of leading and coordinating national safety and quality for better health care

Role of Pharmacists in medication safety

Medications play a crucial role in patient safety by ensuring that treatments are effective and safe. Here are several key points highlighting the role of medications in patient safety:_____

1. **Correct Treatment:** Medications are prescribed to treat specific medical conditions or symptoms, aiming to alleviate suffering and improve health outcomes.
2. **Dosage Accuracy:** Proper dosage ensures the medication is effective without causing harm. Pharmacists and healthcare providers verify the correct dose based on factors such as patient weight, age, and health status.
3. **Prevention of Adverse Events:** Medication errors can lead to adverse events. Careful prescribing, dispensing, and administration processes reduce the risk of these errors, thus enhancing patient safety.

4. Monitoring and Adjustments: Healthcare providers monitor patients' responses to medications to identify any adverse effects or lack of efficacy. Adjustments in dosage or medication type may be necessary to ensure patient safety.

5. Education and Counseling: Pharmacists educate patients about their medications, including proper usage, potential side effects, and interactions with other drugs or food. This empowers patients to take medications safely.

6. Medication Reconciliation: During transitions of care (e.g., hospital discharge), medication reconciliation ensures accurate and complete medication lists. This reduces the risk of medication errors due to discrepancies.

7. Adherence: Patients adhering to prescribed medication regimens as directed by healthcare providers improves treatment outcomes and reduces the likelihood of complications or worsening conditions.

8. Technology and Safety Systems: Electronic prescribing systems and medication management technologies help healthcare providers track medications, flag potential interactions, and ensure safe administration.

9. Patient-Centered Care: Tailoring medication regimens to individual patient needs and preferences promotes safety and improves patient outcomes.

10. Continuous Improvement: Healthcare organizations and regulatory bodies continually review medication safety practices, guidelines, and protocols to enhance patient safety across all stages of medication use.

Overall, medications are essential tools in healthcare, and their safe and effective use is crucial for promoting patient safety and well-being





Pharmacists
make sure that
hospital has the
right medicines
for the **right**
patients at the
right time and
that these are
administered in
the right way for
medication
safety

Research Methodology

Setting – Nagpur

Sample Size – 100 pharmacies

Tool – Structured Questioner

Duration of Study : Approximately 2 Months

Research Questions

1. What is the primary responsibility of a pharmacist in medication dispensing?
2. Why is it important for pharmacists to verify prescriptions before dispensing medications?
3. Which of the following factors can contribute to medication dispensing errors?
4. How does continuous professional development impact pharmacists' dispensing practices?

Conclusions

The data reveals that the primary responsibility of a pharmacist, as perceived by respondents, is ensuring the correct medication is given to the patient, with 50% of the respondents identifying this as the most crucial task. Other responsibilities, such as administering vaccines and maintaining pharmacy inventory, are considered important but secondary, each receiving 20% of the responses. Diagnosing illnesses is deemed the least significant, with only 10% of respondents associating this task with pharmacists' primary role

The data indicates that the primary reason pharmacists verify prescriptions before dispensing medications is to save time, as cited by 50% of respondents. However, only 16% view this step as crucial for ensuring accurate dispensing and preventing errors, suggesting a gap in understanding the importance of verification for patient safety. Lesser percentages associate verification with avoiding patient interaction (20%) and reducing costs (4%), reflecting a limited recognition of its critical role in error prevention.

The data suggests that a lack of knowledge about drug interactions is the leading factor contributing to medication dispensing errors, as indicated by 60% of respondents. Inadequate regular staff training and a non-collaborative healthcare approach are also significant contributors, recognized by 20% and 16% of respondents, respectively. Automated dispensing systems are seen as the least contributory factor, with only 4% perceiving them as a source of errors, implying their perceived effectiveness in reducing mistakes.

The data indicates that continuous professional development significantly improves pharmacists' dispensing practices, with 76% of respondents recognizing its role in enhancing accuracy and patient safety. Only a minority (20%) believe it reduces workload, while 4% think it may increase dispensing errors, and none view it as irrelevant, underscoring its perceived critical importance in maintaining high standards of practice

Recommendations

- Implement regular training programs and workshops to update pharmacists on new medications, drug interactions, and best practices.
- Encourage participation in seminars, conferences, and online courses to enhance knowledge and skills.
- Foster a patient-centered culture emphasizing empathy, effective communication, and ethical responsibility.
- Implement recognition and reward systems to reinforce positive behaviors and attitudes towards patient care.
- Ensure thorough verification of prescriptions and patient information before dispensing medications.
- Utilize technology effectively to streamline processes while maintaining accuracy and patient interaction

Reference

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Thankyou
