

Abstract Submission

Pharmaceutical practice:

Community pharmacy

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Drug-related problems in prescriptions – detection and prevention by community pharmacists

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My preferred method of presentation is: Oral Presentation

Background: Drug Related Problems (DRPs) in prescriptions can harm patients.

Purpose: To assess the proportion of DRPs detected by community pharmacists in prescriptions and types of corrective action taken.

Methods: In a selected community pharmacy in Sri Lanka, one researcher reviewed for DRPs in randomly selected prescriptions (N=200), while another directly observed the proportion of DRPs identified by community pharmacists in the same set of prescriptions. Actions taken by pharmacists on resolution of DRPs were documented. The DRPs were classified according to the Pharmaceutical Care Network Europe classification V8.01.

Results: Among 1057 drugs, 491 DRPs were identified by the researcher, and 143 by pharmacists (N=20). The problems in dose selection (N=221), duration of treatment (N=14), missing important information on prescriptions (N=62), using error prone abbreviations (N=57), using brand names (N=99) and missing dose units (N=8) were the most common DRPs identified by the researcher and of them the pharmacists identified only 120 (P<0.001), 1 (P<0.001), 7(P<0.001), 0(P<0.001), 0(P<0.001) and 0(P<0.001) respectively. However no significant difference was seen for inappropriate drug selection (P=0.558) and inappropriate drug form (P=1.0). Most DRPs detected were corrected by pharmacists themselves without inquiry (114/143). The next most frequent actions by pharmacists were refusing to issue the drug (9/143) and sending back the patient to clarify the problem with the prescriber (8/143).

Conclusion: Pharmacists missed some important DRPs in prescriptions. Routine review for DRPs and taking suitable action must be reinforced among them.