



Pharmacist interventions in prevention and management of drug related problems

Karthik Rakam

Clinical Pharmacist, India

Abstract:

Statement of the Problem: A medication-related problem is an event or circumstance involving medication therapy that actually or potentially interferes with an optimum outcome for a specific patient. There are at least the following categories of drug related problems (DRPs): Untreated indication. Medication use without indication, improper drug selection, Sub therapeutic dose, over dose, adverse drug reactions, drug interactions, non-compliance and drug duplication¹. Drug therapy problems include medication errors. The 2000 institute of medicine (IOM) report To Err Is Human has brought the problem of errors in medicine to world's attention. An estimated 44,000 – 98,000 deaths per year are caused by medical errors, of those 7,000 deaths are as a result of medication errors². The drug related problems can be prevented and managed by incorporating the concept of pharmaceutical care, which involves direct and responsible provision of medication-related care for the purpose of achieving definite outcomes that improve a patient's quality of life, a new concept that represents growth in the pharmacy profession beyond clinical pharmacy and traditional pharmacy.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: The prospective study was done for a period of 4 months, in the internal medicine department of a tertiary care hospital. Patient specific subjective and objective data was collected from the medical charts. Drug therapy was reviewed on a daily basis until discharge and drug related problems were identified. The DRPs were brought to the notice of the physician and pharmacist recommendations were provided. The accepted recommendations were documented as pharmacist interventions.

Biography:

Karthik Rakam has done his Doctor of Pharmacy program in India. He is trained to work as a Clinical Pharmacist in various departments. His goal is to pursue a highly rewarding career, where he can use his knowledge



and skills in contributing to development of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Care in India. He has designed optimal therapeutic regimen in complicated cases of TB, HIV. He has expertise in Individualization of dose in Renal and Hepatic Impairment. He has the ability to analyse patient case sheets and make interventions. He made 85 interventions during the internship. He can check the prescription for clinically significant Drug Interactions, ADRs and make necessary adjustments. He has guided students in 3 studies namely, Development of IV admixture and infusion guidelines, A study on incidence, prevention and management of complications associated with the urinary catheter use in a tertiary care hospital and Analysis of poisoning cases and their management at a tertiary care centre. He organized many conferences, most recent being Pharmacon International, an international conference, at Hyderabad on 23rd December 2018 attended by over 500 delegates representing 75 colleges of Pharm.D across India. He has attended many conferences as a resource person and did workshops across India attended by over 3000 students, pharmacists and academicians.

Publication of speakers:

1. Karthik Rakam, et al., A Study of Clinical Pharmacist Initiated Changes in Drug Therapy a Teaching Hospital; J of Pharmaceutical sciences & Drug Development; 2009 1(2):36- 4..

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