

THE ROLE OF PHARMACISTS IN PROMOTING RATIONAL USE OF MEDICINES IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

Zhadko S.V., Macosso-Michel Joelle Beti-Christ Elisa

National University of Pharmacy, Kharkiv, Ukraine

svzhadkopharm@gmail.com

Introduction. The problem of rational use of medicines is one of the most pressing in modern healthcare. On the one hand, this is due to the fact that medicines play a major role in the treatment of most diseases. On the other hand, the saturation of the modern pharmaceutical market and the huge number of therapeutic and generic analogues on it are both reasons for inadequate choice of medicines and prerequisites for implementation of the management system in order to improve the clinical, social and economic consequences of diseases in this crucial area of health.

Aim. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the role of pharmacists in promoting rational use of medicines in different countries of the world.

Materials and methods. We studied publications in scientific medical and pharmaceutical journals, web-sites of international healthcare organizations.

Results and discussion. Foreign experience demonstrates a significant expansion of the authority of pharmacists.

For instance, in the US, a pharmacist should inform patients about general health issues: diet, exercise and stress management. The pharmacist's responsibilities include completing various medical forms, insurance policies and other official documents. Special care is provided for patients with asthma, diabetes and hypertension. Additional pharmacy medical services include flu vaccinations, injections and biochemical tests. Specialization and advanced training of pharmacists is carried out in such spheres as oncology, cardiology, infectious diseases (HIV and hepatitis C), immunology, ophthalmology, rheumatology, dermatology, gastroenterology, radiological pharmacy, geriatric and psychiatric pharmacy. Computerized medical records are kept for each patient.

In the UK, pharmacists advise patients on the management of waste medicines; promote a healthy lifestyle; support patients in self-medication; provide clinical management of patients; and review prescriptions recipes and intervene as needed in the recipe. The list of additional services of pharmacies includes palliative care services; providing pharmaceutical assistance at home to a patient; assistance in maintaining a gluten-free diet; independent and additional prescribing by pharmacists.

In Germany, pharmacists provide to patients information assistance, which raise public awareness of health and medicines treatment issues. They also carry out screening and consultations on blood pressure measurement, determination of body mass index, low and high density lipoproteins level, total blood cholesterol level, triglycerides and glucose level; provide nutrition advice and help with smoking cessation; draw up a treatment plan for each patient who regularly receives more than three medications. Pharmacists are also responsible for identifying the possible side effects of prescribed medicines, as well as developing options for solving this problem in order to reduce the risk and increase the effectiveness of treatment.

In France, at the patient's permission a pharmacist has access to patient information in a single computer system «Logiciel de gestion officinale», which contains all the necessary information about the patient: age, medical history, medication taken, allergy tendency, doctor's coordinates, etc.

In Japan, pharmacists are involved in accounting for allergic and other adverse reactions to drugs. They control the health status in all areas of the country. There is a post of a school pharmacist who should monitor the quality of water, air, lighting, noise and other environmental factors at school and talk to students about the proper use of medicines and the risk of misuse.

The professional functions of pharmacists in developing countries are considerably limited compared to the activities of pharmacists in economically developed countries in the world. This situation leads to less rational use of medicines, as well as a decrease in pharmacist's motivation to be an experienced specialist and his ability to make an individual approach to each patient.