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Pharmacist: Facilities and Professional Responsibilities in Dhule District of Maharashtra State

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Pharmacists serve patients and the community by providing information and advice on health, providing medications and associated services, and by referring patients to other sources of help and care, such as physicians, when necessary. Likewise, advances in the use of computers in pharmacy practice now allow pharmacists to spend more time educating patients and maintaining and monitoring patient records. As a result, patients have come to depend on the pharmacist as a health care and information resource of the highest caliber.

Pharmacist, in and out of the community pharmacy, is specialists in the science and clinical use of medications. They must be knowledgeable about the composition of drugs, their chemical and physical properties, and their manufacture and uses, as well as how products are tested for purity and strength. Additionally, a pharmacist needs to understand the activity of a drug and how it will work within the body. More and more prescribers rely on pharmacists for information about various drugs, their availability, and their activity, just as patrons do when they ask about nonprescription medications.

Keyword: Facilities and Professional Responsibilities, Maharashtra State

1. INTRODUCTION: Hospital pharmacy is the most extensively used therapeutic arm of the hospitals. WHO has already defined the role and responsibilities of the hospital pharmacists. The pharmacists in developed countries are proving themselves as health care professional through their services ¹ According to norms, there are certain requirements of total number of pharmacists and area required (sq. ft.) as per size of the hospital in terms of number of beds².

About clinical pharmacy services or comprehensive information on drug. Pharmacist must have ability to use his basic knowledge of drug action evaluation of pharmacokinetics, drug interactions, effect of diseases in drug action etc. Hospital pharmacist should conduct the patient oriented clinical pharmacy services including drug information, patient history, patient education and monitoring the patient for specific adverse drug reactions. He must participate in

pharmaceutical research related to medicinal preparations, improvement of their stability, preservation and therapeutic effectiveness of the drugs, he may play an important role in clinical trials carried out in hospitals. Community pharmacist can develop personal relationship through high-level professional services ^{2, 3}

2. OBJECTIVES AND METHOD

Considering these parameters the present study aims to assess the perception of hospital pharmacist in Dhule district of Maharashtra state about their professional services and extent of practice. The study was conducted through convenient sampling method using 20-item questionnaire developed on the basis of recommendations made by WHO and FIP (International Pharmaceutical Federation) ^{5,7}

The study was carried out in 60 hospital pharmacists in private sector from Dhule region. Collection of questionnaire required about two months, Jan and Feb- 2012.

The questionnaires were analyzed based on 'Guide to Application', which is the elaboration for the guidance of administrators, examiner hospital pharmacists and consists of minimum standards for pharmacists in hospitals.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The chief hospital pharmacists were of both the genders (70.0% males and 30.0% females) and in the age group of 20-60 years. About 0.00% were M. Pharm, 40% were B Pharm and 60% were D Pharm. In 70 hospital pharmacists the staff is science graduates, 30 staff non-qualified and 0.00% staff holding Diploma or Degree in pharmacy. The facilities provided were in the form of refrigerator (100%), computer (80%), air conditioner (20%), and internal library (0.00%). The sources of medicine purchase were from wholesaler (30%), retailer (50%), and manufacturer (20%). In 40% of hospital pharmacists the maintenance of inventory and dispensing record were computerized, while in 60% it was manual by using central stock book. According to the size of hospitals (in terms of

number of beds), 65% hospital pharmacists passed the requirement of total required area (sq. ft.) and 35% failed. In case of the total number of pharmacists according to the size of the hospital 90% passed the requirements and 10% failed. Not a single hospital pharmacy under consideration manufactures medicines, participates in research and provides clinical pharmacy services to the patients. Only 80% of the pharmacists agree that the pharmacists should have power to change the prescription if needed. According to hospital pharmacists, further improvement should be made in terms of increase in salary and number of pharmacists arrangement of informative lectures, manufacturing medicine, research development and quality control facilities.

PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

Table -1

Sr.No	Category		Percentage
1	Educational qualification of chief pharmacist	M.Pharm	00.00
		B. Pharm	40.00
		D. Pharm	60.00
2	Educational qualification Of staff	D.Pharm	00.00
		Science	70.00
		gaduates Non-qualified	30.00
3	Facilities	Refrigerator	100.00
		Computer	80.00
		Air conditioner	20.00
		Internal library	00.00
4	Source of medicines	Wholesaler	30.00
		Retailer	50.00
		Manufacturer	20.00
5	Mode of inventory and dispensing	Computerized	40.00
		Central stock	60.00
		Book	

Table -2

Sr.No	Category		Percentage
1	Total ara in sq.ft as per size of hospital	Passed	65.00
		Failed	35.00
2	Total No. of pharmacists as per size of hospital	Passed	90.00
		Failed	10.00

Table -3

Sr.No	Category		Percentage
1	Clinical pharmacy services provided	Yes	00.00
		No	100.00
2	Power to change The prescription	Yes	80.00
		No	20.00

4. CONCLUSION

Hospital pharmacists have abundant opportunity in the changing scenario of pharmacy practice in India to play a vital role in patient's health through pharmaceutical care. On the basis of guidelines for roles, responsibilities and requirements given by WHO and FIP, the present study reveals that, 40-60% of hospital pharmacists under consideration fulfilled the norms and the remaining needed to improve their attitude towards the professional services as well as extent of their practices through suitable and constructive strategies and programmes conducted by State Pharmacy Council and regulatory authorities.

5. REFERENCES

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