

The role of the pharmacist in the patient-centered medical practices: current perspectives

Jelena Micik^{1*}, Evgenija Mihajloska², Aleksandar Dimkovski²,
Aleksandra Grozdanova²

¹*Acibadem Sistina, str. Skupi 5a, 1000 Skopje, R.N. Macedonia*

²*Faculty of Pharmacy, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, str. Mother Tereza 47, 1000 Skopje, R.N. Macedonia*

Introduction

The primary mission of the pharmaceutical profession is to have a positive impact on the provision of public health services, by ensuring a safe and effective use of medicines. There are various aspects of this mission, among which the most important is direct communication with patients and other members of the health team. Within the health care team at the Clinical Hospital “Acibadem Sistina”, pharmacists have a strictly defined essential role which includes integration of pharmaceutical science with clinical aspects of patient care, clinical management and communication skills, as well as an active cooperation with all health care providers for practical overcoming of all problems in the daily practice of treating patients. The importance of informing the patient about an appropriate, precisely defined medicine is the foundation of the pharmaceutical care. The development of therapy management, decision making and guidelines for its modification in terms of better efficacy, compliance and safety is the new goal in the field, which is practiced in the daily work, and is based on the relevant JCI (Joint Commission International) standards for quality and safety. In fact, it is the most prestigious hospital accreditation, due to the strict standards that focus on areas that directly affect the care and treatment of the patient. The final result is safe and secure health care. For pharmacists, as part of the health care team, these standards mean greater safety at work and working according to strictly defined paths, all in order to meet the needs of the patients while providing safe, secure and effective communication and patients care.

Current perspectives and commitment to implementing change

The pharmacists who are part of the health care team at the Clinical Hospital “Acibadem Sistina” are in an excellent position to meet the need for professionals who will ensure the safe and effective use of medicines. Thus, the responsibilities of pharmacists are expanded to include monitoring therapeutic progress, consulting with prescribers and collaborating with all health professionals who are part of the health care team on behalf of the patients. Clinical pharmacists, in accordance with JCI quality and safety standards, are given all the privileges of patient care, by performing a full range of therapy decision-making functions as part of the patient health care team (JCI, 2021). These privileges are granted on the basis of proven knowledge of the clinical pharmacists in the field of medical treatment and the records of a clinical experience.

Pharmacists, in their daily work, discuss the benefits of the therapy with the patients, accurately explain the disease or the condition and how the medicine affects it. During the consultation, the goals of the prescribed therapy are explained, by emphasizing the advantages and disadvantages of the medical treatment, with obligatory note of the non-verbal indications that designate the need for additional explanation. All the above activities are based on the daily practice of pharmaceutical care in the role of conducting clinical pharmacy by monitoring and recording of: laboratory results, diagnostic procedures, reports of surgical interventions, consultations, care notes, dosing in terms of pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic profile of the medicine, information on the patient's initial history and physical examination, as

well as daily progress notes made through a consular examination by the health care team, in which the pharmacists are actively involved (Vi et al., 2016).

The role of the pharmacists at the Clinical Hospital “Acibadem Sistina”, based on JCI quality and safety standards, when it comes to establishing pharmaceutical care, consists of several crucial steps: 1) Assessment of the medication therapy, the needs, existing and potential inconsistencies in the choice of medicines, their joint application; 2) Proposal and development of an appropriate therapeutic plan that would overcome and prevent potential problems with the therapy; and 3) Evaluation and review of the therapeutic plan after implementation.

The therapeutic plan is based on a therapeutic list of medicines, which serves to effectively evaluate the prescribed therapy, which is a key mechanism in the proper application of the therapy and providing the desired effects of the same. It is crucial that pharmacists know and respect patients’ attitudes about their disease and therapy, so that the joint participation in treatment decision-making and treatment plan can be accomplished.

Based on the therapeutic list, created by pharmacists, it is possible to properly monitor and implement the following interventions: 1) Detailed description of the application of most prescribed medicines in appropriate dosing intervals, according to the individual needs of the patient; 2) A review of the interactions between all prescribed medicines that make up the therapeutic list; 3) Monitoring of a new medicine included in the existing list of medicines for interactions; 4) Adjustment of the application of medicines with the daily routine of the patients; 5) Encourage patients to adhere to therapy and emotional commitment to patient well-being; and 6) Clarification of the purpose of the prescribed therapy and open discussion about its advantages and disadvantages.

The pharmacists at the Clinical Hospital “Acibadem Sistina” are active members of the Therapeutic Committees constructed in accordance with the laws of the Ministry of Health. In the domain of these bodies, pharmacists are active participants through the initiative and proposal of skills and activities in accordance with the latest guidelines and recommendations for pharmacotherapy.

Conclusion

The role of the pharmacists at the Clinical Hospital “Acibadem Sistina”, based on the JCI standards for quality and safety, when it comes to establishing a pharmaceutical care, is a current perspective of conducting a medical practice, which is strictly focused and committed to intensive care and treatment of patients,

in order to have a comprehensive approach and treatment as well as to meet the needs of the patients. Due to the fact that, as a result of the daily intensive investment, effort and commitment, pharmacists who are part of the health care team at the Clinical Hospital “Acibadem Sistina”, intensively follow the new paradigm that directs the pharmacist to approach the patient to emphasize the expert role in implementing and monitoring of the therapeutic plan and acquiring competencies that promote and emphasize quality pharmaceutical care.

References

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