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BACKGROUND

The number and diversity of medical devices held and managed by a teaching hospital's pharmacy is very large. Therefore a good practical classification and the availability for all users of an actualized guide is a good way to ensure better management and avoid mistakes.

PURPOSE

In this work, we aimed to establish a practical and useful classification of the medical devices managed by our hospital pharmacy and to realize an electronic guide containing the necessary information.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

1

An exhaustive list of all the medical devices used in our teaching hospital was collected from the pharmacy management software and extracted as an EXCEL file containing 233 items

2

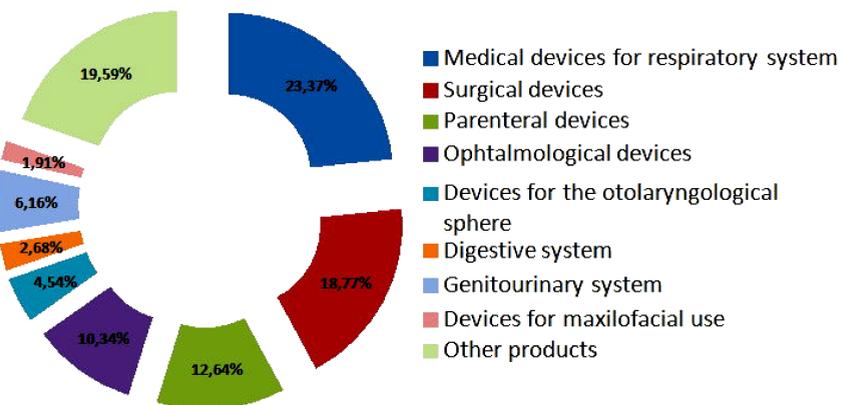
practical classification was made, based mainly on anatomical systems and all the medical devices were classified into categories according to their main anatomical place of use

3

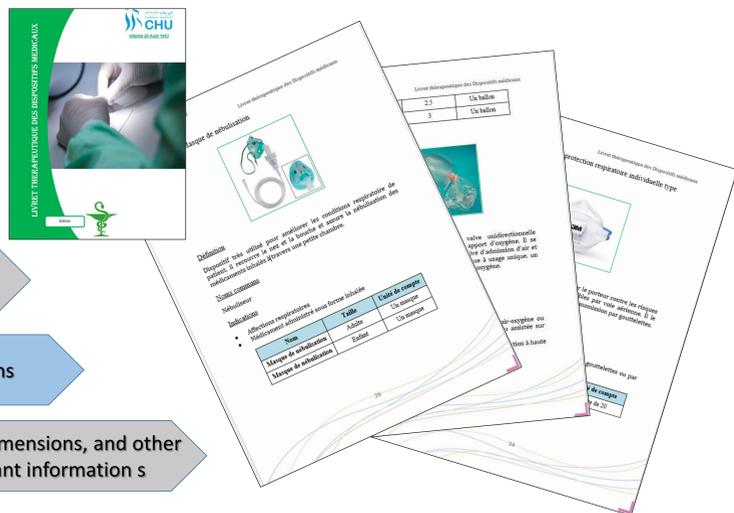
The final step was to realize a guide of all the medical devices in the form of monographs containing all the relevant information for the users

RESULTS

The classification established contained 9 classes. The main classes determined were : Medical devices for respiratory system (23.37 % of the items), surgical devices (18.77 %), parenteral devices (12.64 %) and ophtalmological devices (10.34 %). This classification, used to establish a logical system of storage allowed to optimize the management of space and time and would avoid some mistakes or confusions.



A guide of all the medical devices in the form of monographs containing a picture of every product, the names and synonyms, the definitions, indications and all the other relevant information was realized. An electronic version, periodically actualized of this guide is to be included in the hospital's information system to be accessible for all users.



Names and synonyms
+ Picture

Definitions

Indications

Gauge, dimensions, and other
relevant information s

DISCUSSION

Choice and realization of a classification

Several classification of medical devices exist. Our choice was made on the basis of the advantages and the fields of application of each method of classification:

Classification method	Advantages	Disadvantages
Risk-based classification	Allows authorities to identify medical risks at registration.	Within the same class, products having the same risk, could be very diversified, and can not be treated in the same way, in terms of storage, distribution, and delivery.
Global Medical Device Nomenclature (GMDN) CLADIMED	Allows easy computerization of medical devices • Facilitates the search for a product; • Allows comparative analyzes; • Provides a structured view of the market; • Improves information exchange (interoperability).	It does not facilitate the physical layout or delivery of devices. It does not facilitate the dispensation in optimal conditions.
Classification based on anatomical systems	Physical distribution of items that clearly fluidifies the supply chain and the management of medical devices.	

Réalisation of an electronic guide

The selected topics answer the questions what is it? And For which indication is it used ? It also defines every product according to the names known by the medical staff.

The tables help to choose of the items according to their availability and photos for better recognition.

The digitalized presentation of the guide was an economic and ecological choice.

CONCLUSION

Classification and nomenclature systems are usually developed for specific purposes, such as Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) classification by the World Health Organization for drugs. Medical devices are more difficult to group into categories. In this work, we establish a logical classification based on the main anatomical place of use. This classification permitted a better storage and management of these products.