EXPIRED MEDICINES AND MEDICAL DEVICES, AN ACROBATIC MANAGEMENT

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Background

Our solution to prevent expired medicines:
- Automated drugs distribution systems with:
  - distribution according to the best before date
  - or the first in first out principle managed by a warehouse management system.
- On shelves, products storage according to expiry

Nevertheless, some drugs and medical devices expire each month.

Purpose

The aim of this work is to identify the factors responsible for the lapse in order to optimize inventory management.

Material and methods

Identification of the expired products:
- Name
- Quantity
- Price

For each expired product:
- Determination of the reason for expiry
- Proposition of a solution to optimize stock management

Results

✔ 330 products thrown away
✔ EUR 170,149 (EUR 144,761 excluding refunds by suppliers).

Discussion

The amount of expenditure is probably underestimated because the price of our pharmaceutical preparations (28 cases) was not charged. Having optimized the settings seems to be efficient because there is no lapse redundancy except for the little used products for which a minimal stock must be maintained (including emergency drugs).

Conclusion

Optimizing the stock is a long-term job which requires the contribution of several stakeholders like buyer pharmacists, supply and logistic responsible and consumers.

Keywords:
total quality management, pharmacoeconomics, hospital inventory

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