WEIGHT-LOWERING PSEUDOEPHEDRINE-BASED PRESCRIPTIONS: MONITORING PATIENT FEEDBACK AFTER UPDATE OF NATIONAL PRICE LIST OF MEDICINES AND MAGISTRAL PREPARATION

Pirrone A.1, Marangon V.2, Nisic A.A.3, Manfredi A.L.3, Palmieri G.2, Panzeri F.3, Pizzonia M.G.3, Avantaggiato M.3, Cavallo L.1
1UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO, SCIENZE FARMACOLOGICHE - SCUOLA DI SPECIALIZZAZIONE IN FARMACIA OSPEDALIERA, MILANO, ITALY.
2ATS BRIANZA, PHARMACY SERVICE, MONZA, ITALY.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

On 09/11/2017, National Price List of Medicines and Magistral Preparation (NPM) has been updated. Among several changes introduced, the price of magistral preparations are increased by 40% in order to offset additional charges related to general, preliminary and subsequent professional activities linked to preparation and dispensation. The hospital pharmacist, operating in the local pharmaceutical services, guarantees the appropriate supervision on these prescriptions. To evaluate whether the price change, due to update of NPM, has affected the number of prescriptions and patients.

METHODS

Number of prescriptions, patients and price of preparations, other data regarding prescriptions have been collected using Microsoft Excel. Period analysis according to date of dispensation: from 01/09/2017 to 11/08/2018, divided into five 69-day periods (from P1 to P5), of which one before and four after 09/11/2017.

RESULTS

In the whole analyzed period, from 01/09/2017 to 11/08/2018, 1671 prescriptions are dispensed, referring to 442 patients, from 17 different pharmacies. The average number of patients treated per period is 159. P1: 236 preparations, 158 patients, average price 16.79€. P2: 321 preparations, 170 patients, average price 30.35€. P3: 310 preparations, 148 patients, average price 31.52€. P4: 343 preparations, 147 patients, average price 31.98€. P5: 461 preparations, 184 patients, average price 31.63€.

The average price between first and third period has increased by 88%. Despite the substantial economic increase, the number of patients treated has not decreased compared to the first period, showing an increase immediately after the entry into force of the updated NPM.

During week 11 (09/11/2017-15/11/2017) the increase in the average cost of preparations was 60.98% compared to the previous week. Furthermore, during the second period, the price of 34 preparations out of 321 (10.59%) was calculated using the old tariff, probably due to a delay in alignment by pharmacies with the updated TNM.

CONCLUSION

The average price between the first and fifth period has increased by 88%. Despite the substantial increase in price, there has not been a substantial variation in the number of dispensations and patients treated, underlining that pharmacist’s professionalism and his galenic skills can compensate the lack of suitable economically available pharmaceutical equivalent.

Pharmacies involved in the preparation of pseudoephedrine-based preparations are concentrated in the districts of Monza (9 pharmacies) and Vimercate (7 pharmacies) belonging to Pharmacy Service of ATS Brianza.