EXPERIENCES WITH A BEST POSSIBLE MEDICATION HISTORY (BPMH) CONDUCTED BY PHARMACY STUDENTS IN THE HOSPITAL SETTING: A SCOPING REVIEW

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BACKGROUND

Improvement of patient safety at transition of care points is a key strategic aim of the 3rd WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge. Medication reconciliation on admission into hospital increases patient safety by reducing medication errors and adverse events and has been shown to reduce hospital readmissions. Collection of an accurate best possible medication history (BPMH) is the first step. This is often labour- and resource intensive. Final year pharmacy students are now being assigned to obtain BPMHs, as a cost effective alternative.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of this scoping review was to determine the experiences with a best possible medication history (BPMH) conducted by pharmacy students in the hospital setting.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A scoping review was conducted involving PubMed, PubPharm, LIVIVO and Web of Science. Including original studies and systematic reviews and their reference lists. Only papers investigating pharmacy students BPMH in comparison to other healthcare providers in hospital practice were included. Two independent reviewers screened titles, abstracts and full text articles and completed data extraction with discrepancies being verified by a third. Data charting was used to identify variables that correspond to the research question. Reporting was completed in accordance with PRISMA-ScR.

RESULTS

Out of 235 papers, 18 papers met the inclusion criteria. Australia (n=1); Canada (n=1) and the USA (n=16) including a total of 7293 patients. Pharmacy students use more information resources (77.6%; n=972) compared to Pharmacy technicians (58.4%; n=743); identified more prescription and non-prescriptions drugs (n=10,2) compared to nurses (n=6,8) and medics (n=7,1); make fewer mistakes identifying allergies and intolerances (n=6) compared to nurses (n=27) and reduced the 30-day re-admission rate (0,6%).

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

Pharmacy students are able to effectively contribute to patient safety by carrying out very detailed best possible medication histories, offering an economical alternative to technicians, nurses, pharmacists and medical healthcare professionals. In addition to the benefits to the healthcare system this offers additional opportunities for education and interdisciplinary training between pharmacy and medical / nursing students.

Key-facts:

- Pharmacy students carry out a very detailed BPMH
- Pharmacy students use more information resources compared to pharmacy technicians and that more prescription and non-prescriptions drugs compared to nurses
- Pharmacy students may be an economical alternative to other healthcare professionals
- The 30-day re-admission rate decreases

REFERENCES


Keywords: best possible medication history (BPMH); Patient Admission; students, Pharmacy; medicines reconciliation