



CLINICAL PHARMACISTS ROLES AND THEIR OPPORTUNITIES

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ABSTRACT

Pharmacy practice is still in the initial stages of development in India, but the launching of Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) study program has brought serious discussions about clinical pharmacy in the country. As the profession is in a budding stage in the country, the patients, physicians, nurses, other healthcare providers, recruiters in pharmaceutical industries, prospective students, and their parents have numerous questions about this profession and study course. The objective of this article is to create awareness about clinical pharmacy services and to introduce the role of clinical pharmacists. After reading this article, one will know about the usefulness of clinical pharmacists in the Indian healthcare system against the current laws in the system. The article describes the role of Clinical pharmacist in the hospitals, and it also tells about the related myths and facts. A Pharm D person is an eligible to work in all areas where a Bachelor of Pharmacy (B. Pharm) qualified student can work. Apart from this, a clinical pharmacist (both Pharm D and M. Pharm Pharmacy Practice) can work in several other areas after completion of the course. Here, we are predicting the career prospectuses and job opportunities of Clinical Pharmacists according to the international scenario. Though all these areas are not well-established at present in India for clinical pharmacists, we believe that these areas would be open for them in near future. The article describes the role of clinical pharmacists in the hospitals, in research, in pharmaceutical/contract research companies, in community service and it also tells about the related myths and facts. Prospective job opportunities for clinical pharmacists, present challenges and the possible solutions are elaborated as well.

Key Words: Clinical pharmacists, Clinical pharmacy services, Doctor of Pharmacy.

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INTRODUCTION

India has launched Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) study program in the year 2008, and it has sprouted huge discussions about both, the program and the role of clinical pharmacists in the country. Before launching of the study program (I.e. PharmD), the role of a pharmacist in the nation was mostly considered to be "dispensing/manufacturing/marketing of the drugs" and clinical pharmacy education was mostly given under the study program of Master of Pharmacy (M. Pharm) (Pharmacy Practice/Clinical Pharmacy). Furthermore, there, there had been "almost no" professional clinical pharmacy services provided in the country. As a consequence, the concepts of Clinical Pharmacists and Pharm D are quite new in India. Here, we have predicted the benefits of Clinical Pharmacists and Clinical Pharmacist in the Indian healthcare system on the grounds of the current healthcare scenario. The poster reveals a few things about an Indian healthcare system that might not be easily acceptable to many healthcare providers in India or they may be totally new to many. However, as far as the Indian healthcare scenario is considered, these conditions stand true and factual. At first, it is important to understand the role of Clinical Pharmacist in the Indian healthcare system.

The academic study includes the same subjects such as B. Pharm, in addition, the pharmacy practice components are emphasized such as Hospital Pharmacy, Community Pharmacy, Pharmacotherapeutics, Clinical Pharmacy, Biostatistics, and Research Methodology, Clinical Toxicology, Clinical Research, Pharmacoepidemiology, Pharmacoeconomic, Clinical Pharmacokinetics, and Pharmacotherapeutic Drug Monitoring. Further to add, in the fifth year of the course the candidate has to perform a project work for six months. Pharm D (post-baccalaureate) is a three-year course which includes two years of academics and one-year internship after B.Pharm. Some unique features of Pharm D include- eligibility to register for Ph.D., prefix 'Dr.' to name and a registrable qualification after completion of course. The pharmacists can provide clinical pharmacy services. Out of the services patient medication counselling is considered to be the most important part from a patient's point of view. The information that may be discussed while a counselling session purpose, expected action, storage, method of administration of drugs and medical devices. Overall skills required to provide better clinical pharmacy services are up-to-date knowledge of clinical aspects of drugs and good communication skills.

After completion and during the course Pharm D candidate may provide the clinical pharmacy services in the hospital, work in the areas Clinical research organizations (CRO), Pharmacovigilance, Pharmacoeconomic, community services, research, and academics. As we know it is a newly launched curriculum in India, it will take time to get it well established. Pharm D candidates need to work hard and get recognized in the society for patient-care by clinical pharmacy services. They have to create a rapport with other healthcare providers such as physicians, nurses, and also with patients. Pharm D candidates have to generate the need for clinical pharmacy services in the society and prove its importance. As the Pharm D is mostly patient-cantered curriculum, therefore, patients will be benefited the most. The patients would be able to know all the information about their disease, drugs and lifestyle modifications for the disease in future which would definitely increase prognosis of the patients. The clinical pharmacy services would also minimize the workload of physicians from their busy schedule as well as it would decrease the load on the Indian health-care system.

It can be expected that the Pharmacists, i.e., Pharm D would play a major role in the Indian health care system in the future. This course will give an opportunity to pharmacists to work more prominently in the Indian health care system. Here are some Duties of a pharm D students after completion of their course,

WARD ROUND PARTICIPATION

As a member of the healthcare team, the pharmacists can attend ward rounds. The goals are improved understanding of the patient's history, progress, clinical details, to provide information on clinical aspects of patient's therapy and to improve discharge planning. The pharmacists can also help in decision-making to select the quality low-cost medicine; optimize the quality of

CLINICAL REVIEW

At is clinical the products are carefully developed in house by a team of skincare experts that includes geneticists, biologists, and physicians and With this mastermind team behind is Clinical product development, the skincare line has grown to include anti-aging, preventative and protective products that are readily available in the market.

MONITORING AND REPORTING ADRs

Physicians play an important role in recognizing and reporting suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) by any drug to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Physicians can report suspected ADRs directly to the FDA via its MedWatch program, by contacting the manufacturer of the drug, and by publishing case reports the respected people should answer for the cause of that ADR to the people.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community service is a non-paying job performed by one person or a group of people for the benefit of the community or its institutions. Community service is distinct from volunteering since it is not always performed on a voluntary basis. It may be performed for a variety of reasons. They just help for the community without taking money.

patient care and clinical outcomes; ensure medicine selection as per formulary and local guidelines.

PROVISION OF DRUG POISON INFORMATION

Drug information and poison information is a poison information centre is a specialized unit providing information on the poisoning and provide information in principles involved in drug to the whole community.

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CLINICAL RESEARCH

Clinical research is a branch of healthcare science that determines the safety and effectiveness (efficacy) of medications, devices, diagnostic products and treatment regimens intended for human use. These may be used for prevention, treatment, diagnosis or for relieving symptoms of a disease. Clinical research is different from clinical practice. It is a branch where we can find some new medicines to cure some new diseases.

Patient counselling

Patient counselling is defined as providing medication information orally or in written form to the patients or their representatives on directions of use, advice on side effects, precautions, storage, diet and lifestyle modifications. The patient should recognize the importance of medication for his well being. Here are some more pharm D professions,

CONCLUSION

Clinical pharmacists are definitely going to be the major support to the Indian healthcare system. Patients, physicians, other healthcare providers, and hospitals will get a lot of benefits out of clinical pharmacist. Greater understanding about the illness and a change in attitude and practice would in turn results in a better therapeutic outcome. But at the same time, there is a strong requirement to consider various unresolved issues. Our study concluded that Most patient's knowledge about disease, preventive measures and risk factors improved after counseling whereas few elderly were not able to improve their quality of life due to poor memory, in such states counseling was given to patient's representative but there was only little change due to their severity of disease.

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