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Community Pharmacies' Operational Compliance with PPR 2015: A Pilot Study of Naturalistic Practice Patterns

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Community pharmacies in India play a pivotal role in medication management and patient care. Despite regulations set by the Pharmacy Practice Regulations 2015 (2021 amendment), compliance within community pharmacies often falls short.

Objectives:

To evaluate the level of compliance with the PPR 2015 among community pharmacies, focusing on adherence to regulatory requirements and standards of practice. **Materials and Methods:** A single blinded cross-sectional observational (pilot) study was conducted over two months (April - May 2024) involving 25 randomly selected registered community pharmacies in Chennai. Data were collected through field visits by trained Pharm. D. students, with compliance to regulations observed and recorded. Data analysis was performed using Microsoft Excel and SPSS software. **Results:** The overall compliance score for the community pharmacies was 67.2%. Prescription was not requested by 88% of the community pharmacies, and 40% of pharmacists failed to consult physicians when faced with prescription misunderstandings. Positively, 80% of pharmacists provided counselling at the time of dispensing, and 92% displayed their registration license. However, a concerning 92% of pharmacists were not wearing formal attire, such as a white coat or apron, reflecting a significant lapse in adherence to dress code standards.

Conclusion:

Compliance with Pharmacy Practice Regulations 2015 among community pharmacies is inadequate. The study highlights significant gaps, including failure to enforce prescription requirements and professional attire standards. Recommendations include mandatory Continuing Pharmacy Education (CPE) for pharmacists to improve adherence to regulations and enhance patient care. The pilot study's results underscore the need for broader investigation and intervention.

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