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Clinical Pharmacist Interventions in identification and prevention of drug related problems in a tertiary care hospital in United Arab Emirates

Basma Hatim Alblooshi, Mirza R. Baig, & Juliana Friedrich Roos

¹Clinical Pharmacist, Ministry of Health and Prevention, United Arab Emirates

²Professor & Head, Department of Clinical Pharmacy & Pharmacotherapeutics, Dubai Pharmacy College for Girls, Dubai, UAE

³Associate Professor, Depart of Clinical Pharmacy & Pharmacotherapeutics, Dubai Pharmacy College for Girls, Dubai, UAE

Address for Correspondence: editorjohp@gmail.com

Abstract

Patients admitted to wards might receive a large number of drugs and be at risk for Drug-Related Problem (DRPs) which is an event or circumstance involving drug therapy that actually or potentially interferes with desired health outcomes. Clinical pharmacists have ample opportunities to contribute directly to patient safety. The aim of this study is to investigate the clinical pharmacist intervention in identifying and preventing DRPs.

A hospital based cross-sectional retrospective non-probability study, was conducted in 329 reports of drug related problem. All prescriptions intervened by clinical pharmacists and their respective case reports of patients admitted in various clinical departments of Fujairah Hospital between January 2017 and January 2019 were collected and analyzed.

The study included 229 patients, 77.8 % male, with a mean age 59.06 (± 20.4 SD). All the patients were reported with one or more DRPs, with an average of 1.4 DRPs per patient were found. The most prevalent DRP was Therapeutic duplication which represented by (21.5%), followed by inappropriate drug form (17.0%), Incorrect drug administration (11.6%). Pantoprazole, ceftriaxone, aspirin and clopidogrel were the drugs causing most frequent DRPs. The drug groups causing most DRPs were antibacterial agents, [Proton pump inhibitors](#) and anti-thrombotic agents. Once discovered, the majority of DRPs (92.5%) were accepted by the physicians and solved immediately, while (7.5 %) of clinical pharmacist advice was not approved. The risk factors for the DRPs were found to be poly-pharmacy and co-morbidities.

DRPs were common among patients at Fujairah hospital. Clinical Pharmacists played an important role in Medication Error recovery and prevented drug error from reaching patients. These error alleviation efforts of Clinical Pharmacists can serve as a precedence in patient safety and quality care strategy.

Keywords: drug related problems, clinical pharmacist intervention, risk factors, Fujairah hospital.

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