

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 Challenge¹. Medication reconciliation on admission into hospital increases patient safety by reducing medication errors and adverse events² and has been shown to reduce hospital readmissions³. 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 alternative⁴.

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. (2010-2021) 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)⁵; identified more prescription and non-prescriptions drugs (n=10,2) compared to nurses (n=6,8) and medics (n=7,1)⁶; make fewer mistakes identifying allergies and intolerances (n=6) compared to nurses (n=27)⁴ and reduced the 30-day re-admission rate (0,6%)⁷.

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

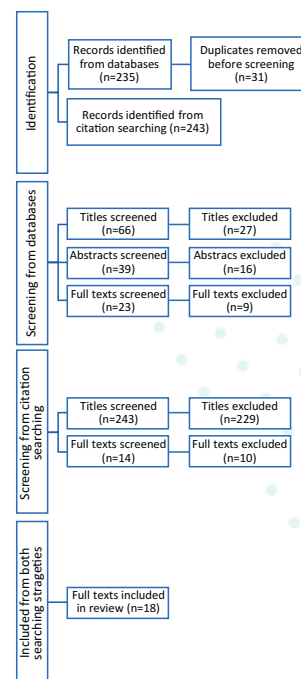
Pharmacy students are able to effectively contribute to patient safety by carrying out very detailed best possible medication histories, offering an economical alternative to technicians, nurses, pharmacists and medical healthcare professionals. In addition to the benefits to the healthcare system this 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 find more prescription and non prescription drugs compared to nurses	
Pharmacy students may be an economical alternative to other healthcare professionals	
The 30 day readmission rate decreases	

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