

EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF INCORPORATING A PHARMACIST INTO A HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT



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BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Attending a Hospital Emergency Department (HED) is considered a high-risk situation regarding medicines appropriate reconciliation and medication errors. Thus, patients may well benefit from incorporating a pharmacist into the healthcare team who helps with medication management review.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To analyze the interventions proposed by the pharmacy team to the medical team in our HED setting and to evaluate the positive impact this may have in patients' management.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- Patients' prescriptions were assessed and pharmacotherapy changes, if needed, were registered in their clinical history.
- At the end of the workday, we reviewed if proposals had been accepted or rejected.
- This prospective study was conducted in a tertiary hospital during a month.

RESULTS

- **200 patients** were analyzed (54% males and 46% females). Mean age was 75 years [31-99].

Drug-related problem	% of total interventions	Affected drug family	%
Reconciliation (overdosing, underdosing, posology disparities, absence or no-longer taking medicine prescription)	45	Antibiotics	22
Overdosing (according to renal function or indication)	13	Antidepressants, antipsychotics and anxiolytics	15
Excessive anticholinergic burden (that may had contributed to the current clinical problem)	10	Antithrombotics	14
Underdosing (according to indication)	9	Blood pressure lowering agents	9
Lack of indication	8	Vitamin and electrolytes supplements	9
Lack of prescription of highly-likely-needed drug	6	Antiepileptics	7
Duplicities	4	Immunosuppressors	4
Not optimal drug for the indication	3	Others (painkillers, statins, antiretrovirals, antiarrhythmics, anti-gouts, thyroid hormones and eye-drops)	< 3
Allergy-related	2		

Proposed interventions: 66 (in 54 patients)

- ✓ Dosing adjustment (50%)
- ✓ Prescription (20%)
- ✓ Discontinuation (20%)
- ✓ Posology modification (7%)
- ✓ Alternative drug selection (3%)

✓ **Accepted** 55%
✗ **Rejected** 22%
? **Unevaluable** 23%



CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE

- Multidisciplinary teams are beneficial to patients' care.
- Incorporating a pharmacist in a HED reduces the incidence of medication errors and can positively contribute to the management of patients.
- Medicines reconciliation, dosing and indication checking and pharmacotherapy optimization are actions in which the pharmacy team is capable to actively contribute for patients' best outcomes.