

Is the emergency pharmacist role accepted by emergency department staff?

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Background: the resistance from physicians and nurses is seen as a potential blockage to implementation of an emergency pharmacist program.

Purpose: to examine the perceived value of the emergency pharmacist (EP) role from the perspective of emergency physician and nursing staff.

Material and Methods

Descriptive survey study. A pharmacist carried out clinical tasks in emergency department for two months. After this time, an anonymous 17-item survey involving physician and nursing staff was developed.

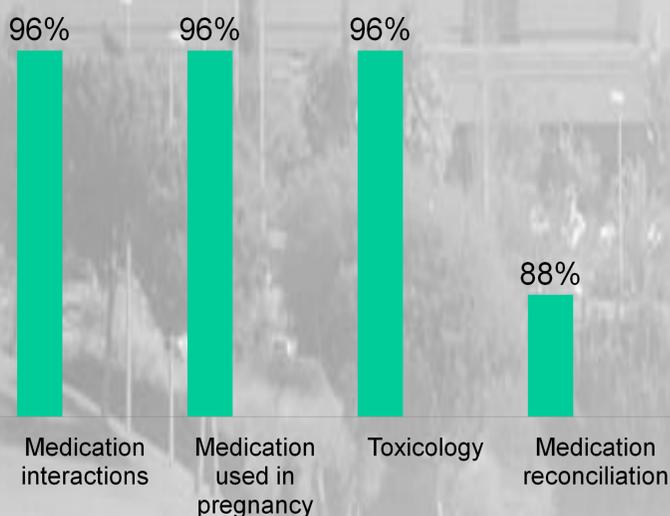
Five point scales were used where appropriate (1="strongly agree" and 5="strongly disagree").

Results → 50 surveys (58% physicians, 48% nurses)

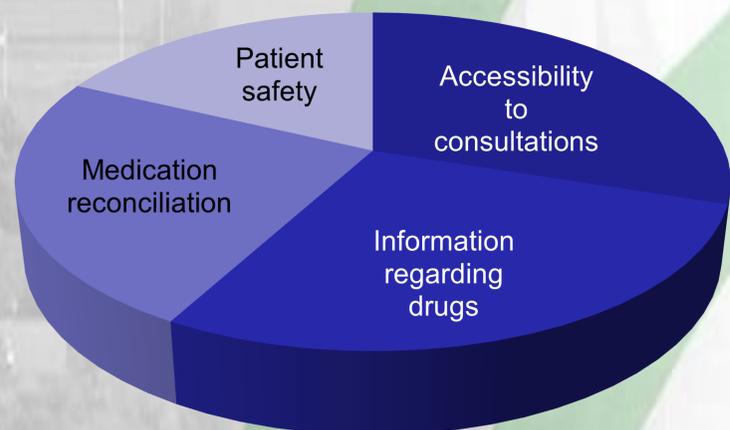
1. General perceptions

Item	% of agreement
EP improves quality of care	96%
Staff who made at least one consult to the EP	91%
EP has an important role as Staff educator	90%
EP has an important role as patient educator	76%
The EP should be an integral part of the team	68%

2. Most valued specific consultations to EP



3. Most valued contributions of EP



Respondents gave a punctuation of 7.6 (SD 1,8) over 10 to the role of EP.

Conclusion: Emergency pharmacist role is highly valued by staff and it is perceived to improve quality of care. Staff acceptance should not be a barrier to the implementation of EP programs.