



Safe medicine practices: a multidisciplinary approach

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Background and importance

Multidisciplinary training actions were carried out within the scope of Safe Medicine Practices. Healthcare professionals from the institution were heard in order to improve the implemented circuits.

Aim and objectives

Portuguese legislation “The Basic Health Law (No. 95/2019) and the National Plan for Patient Safety 2021-2026 (NPPS 2021-2026) and the goals of the World Health Organization (WHO) are fundamental pillars of health care safety. The NPPS has promoted patient safety in the Portuguese National Health Service, focusing on specific issues such as safety culture, unambiguous identification of patients, safe surgery, pressure ulcer prevention, prevention of falls, infections associated with healthcare and incident reporting and drug safety. Based on the first strategic objective of the PNSD 2021-2026, it is essential to ensure the training of healthcare professionals in the scope of patient safety and the safe and rational use of medication, based on a culture of quality.

The **objectives of the training actions** were focused on the safe use of medication, promoting patient safety and sharing experiences between the various healthcare professionals, in order to optimize the circuits and procedures already implemented.

Material and Methods

A team of **4 pharmacists** and **1 nurse** carried out **training actions** at the Institution's Health professionals in the context of **Safe Medicines Practices**. The **following topics** were addressed:

- Medicine circuit;
- Good practices in drug preparation;
- Identification of medicines: Look Alike Sound Alike (LASA) and High Alert Drugs (in accordance with *Norma Nº 014/2015 – Direção Geral da Saúde* (DGS));
- Physicochemical incompatibilities;
- Factors that modify stability after reconstitution/dilution;
- Fractionation and crushing of Solid Oral Pharmaceutical Forms (SOPF);
- Drug information sources;
- Reporting adverse drug reactions and other incidents;
- Good practices in medication administration.

Results

Training actions were carried out with a total of **29 hours of training** and **357 participants**.

Suggestions for improvement were presented:

- Optimization of drug signage;
- Compliance with established circuits;
- Logistical aspects;
- On time drug information;
- Improvement of communication channels;
- Increase in the frequency of training actions.

The trainees expressed receptiveness and interest in this initiative, which provided content that was little discussed so far and very relevant to their daily practice.

Conclusion and Relevance

The correct preparation and administration of medicines is essential to safeguard their effectiveness and patient safety, which is the ultimate goal of every health professional's daily activity. The Pharmacist, as part of the multidisciplinary team, must promote strategies that safeguard Safe Practices throughout the drug circuit. Therefore it is important to ensure the continuity of these trainings in the near future.

References

- Diário da República*, 2nd series; Order No. 9390/2021, September 24, 2021
National Plan for Patient Safety 2021 -2026 (PNSD 2021 -2026).

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