

BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE



Analyzing the reasons of repeated Emergency Department (ED) visits could help establish a pharmacotherapeutic follow-up consultation, in order to reduce the number of re-consultations.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES



Analyze the percentage of repeated visits to ED in relation to pharmaceutically-approved patients' medication or patients' medication whom have received a thorough pharmacotherapy revision (approved/thoroughly checked patients).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

WHAT?

Observational and retrospective study

WHERE?

In a second level hospital

WHEN?

September-December 2022

WHO?

All patients approved and thoroughly checked by the Pharmacy team from the ED, meaning all those who appeared in at least one of the Emergency Pharmacy Activity (EPA) forms

MAIN QUESTIONS

- % of patients that came back to the ED, counting ≥ 2 EPA registrations (compared to the total amount of approved and thoroughly checked patients in that period)
- % of patients coming back with the same issue
- Main issues the repeat a visit
- % of repeated visits related to pharmacotherapy
- Main pharmacotherapeutic related groups (ATC code)

OTHER QUESTIONS

- Age
- Sex



HOW?



Data was obtained from the electronic medical record and the pharmacy dispensing program.

For analysis, data were evaluated through an Excel® software descriptive frequency analysis.



RESULTS



673 patients were included



50.52% of patients were women



Median age was 72 years old (16-101)

A 11.44% (77/673) of patients visited the ED again.

The main issues to revisit were:

- Respiratory infection: 11.68% (9/77)
- Unbalanced heart failure and urinary tract infection: both a 10.38% (8/77)
- COPD flare-ups: 7.8% (6/77)

A 46.75% (36/77) of patients came back due to the same issue.

The main pharmacotherapeutic groups related to the ED were:

- Cardiovascular-system: 35.41% (17/48)
- Anti-infective group: 20.83% (10/48)
- Respiratory-system: 12.5% (6/48)

The repeated visits related to medication were 57.83% (48/83) of cases.

CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE

From the approved/thoroughly checked patients that came to the ED, 1/10 came back at least once and, in almost half of the cases, due to the same issue. In over half of the cases, the repeated visits were related to medication, and specifically to issues where cardiovascular or anti-infectious medication were involved. To learn about the repeated visits to the ED and how they are related to pharmacotherapy could help select patients who could benefit from an outpatient pharmacotherapeutic appointment after being discharged, aiming to reduce the amount of repeated ED visits related to medication.