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What was done?

- A clinical pharmacist was included into the multidisciplinary team of the Emergency department (ED).

Why was done?

- ▶ Several studies had been published claiming that the figure of a clinical pharmacist could improve the quality and safety of the medicines prescribed in the ED.
- ▶ However, little information has been published regarding its clinical impact when the pharmacist is physically present at the ED, which could enhance communication with clinicians and ED staff.

How was it done?

- The pharmacist performs their duties on-site from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Monday through Friday, joining the medical team located in the short stay unit (SSU) of the ED.
- The project was focused on validating and reconciling medications of SSU's patients, who are awaiting hospitalization or discharge from this unit.
- Additional activities include logistical tasks, risk management and medication-related safety issues, with the identification of medication errors (MEs) during the pharmaceutical review.

What has been achieved?

- From December 2023 to May 2024, 1904 clinical histories (patients) were reviewed (Mean day: 16 patients).

- MEs were found in 14.8% of the patients (282 patients), with a total of 338 MEs. Most common ME found were reconciliation errors (31.5%), followed by overdosing errors (28.1%), therapeutic duplicities (15.1%) and underdosing errors (8.9%).

- The most common pharmacological class involved was antimicrobials (40.6%), followed by anticoagulants (13.2%), immunosuppressants (9.3%) and antihypertensives (7.8%).

What next?

- Considering the overall satisfaction regarding the ED pharmacist figure in this setting, its work day in ED has been extended from 8:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.
- More research is needed in order to clarify if the role of the ED pharmacist working on-site at the ED can improve healthcare outcomes.

