NATIONAL SURVEY OF CLINICAL PHARMACY PRCATICE IN SAUDI ARABIA: EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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Background

The pharmacy profession has shifted from product oriented to patient focus over the past forty years. This expansion of the role of pharmacists allows them to practice more clinical functions (1). This increase in responsibility of pharmacists required to be supported by the enhanced clinical education to maintain their skills, knowledge, and competencies to practice throughout their career in order to enhance their performance and career progression (2) for these reasons the need for lifelong learning is unquestionable for pharmacists.

Objectives

To explore the National Survey of Clinical Pharmacy Practice in Saudi Arabia 2016-2017 with emphasis on the Education and Training

Methods

It is a 4-months cross-sectional National Survey of Clinical Pharmacy Practice in Saudi Arabia. The study consisted of two parts; the demographic information and the second part contained fifty-one questions divided into four domains derived from American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and Saudi Pharmaceutical Society (SPS) survey, the international standard of Joint Commission of Hospital Accreditation in addition to the local standards of Saudi Center of healthcare accreditation. The 5-point Likert response scale system with closed-ended questions used. An electronic questionnaire distributed to the thirty-one directors of pharmacies at MOH hospitals. All analyses done through survey monkey system.

Table 3: The type Education and Training available for clinical pharmacy staff

Answer Options	General Clinical Pharmacist		Specialist Clinical Pharmacist		Consultant Clinical pharmacist		Clinical pharmacist supervisor		Response N
Short education course 1-5 days	27	90.00%	4	13.33%	1	3.33%	8	26.67%	30
Long training session 4-5 weeks	17	77.27%	2	9.09%	0	0.00%	4	18.18%	22
General Pharmacist residency program	15	75.00%	2	10.00%	0	0.00%	4	20.00%	20
Specialized pharmacist residency program	13	68.42%	3	15.79%	1	5.26%	2	10.53%	19
Distance learning pharmacy education	17	85.00%	4	20.00%	2	10.00%	4	20.00%	20
	89		**15**		**4**		**22**		

answered question:31 and skipped question 0

Results

The survey questionnaire distributed to 31 hospitals. The most qualified education courses for clinical pharmacy staff was cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) (74.19%) and advance cardiac life support (ACLS) (36.67%), while the least one was advance trauma life support (ATLS) (10.71%). Almost all educational courses had been given to the general clinical pharmacist (89) and clinical pharmacist supervisor (22). The majority type of educational courses delivered to healthcare professional was short education course 1-5 days 85 (47.22%) followed by basic medication safety 60 (45.45%) and clinical pharmacy orientation (41.67%), while clinical pharmacists have delivered educational and training courses to healthcare providers mainly for general Nurses (108) followed by resident physicians (66) and specialist physicians (53).

Discussions

In our study, the response rate was meager. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation course was the most attendance by pharmacists. This result was not surprising as this course is mandatory for the relicense in Saudi Arabia. Participated pharmacists preferred short courses over long ones; however, participants from another study were more likely to register for one day course compare to the multi-day course (3). Specialist and consultant clinical pharmacists were more interested in distance learning pharmacy education and specialized pharmacist's residency program. Health care participants were motivated to participate in basic medication safety, clinical pharmacy orientation followed by ER medications delivered by pharmacy staff. In this study, we did not investigate the factors which may lead to the poor participation by pharmacists, but there are many factors investigated in other studies that hesitate pharmacists from participating in the CE courses (3). For example, high costs, little time, lack of motivation, negative attitudes and technical difficulties (4) (5).

Conclusion

The clinical pharmacy staff missed some primary education and training courses. Less than half of hospitals delivered education courses to healthcare care professionals. Targeting of both bilingual education and training facilities for clinical pharmacy staff and healthcare providers is highly recommended in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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