PHARMACIST'S PRIVILEGE IN SAUDI ARABIA: PHARMACIST PRESCRIBING AND THERAPEUTIC INTERCHANGE

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Objectives

To explore Survey of Pharmacist Privilege in Saudi Arabia: Pharmacist prescribing and Therapeutic interchange

Methods

It is a 4-months cross-sectional Survey of pharmacist s Privilege in Saudi Arabia. The study consisted of two sections; the demographic information and the second part contained twenty-eight questions divided into four domains drove from previous litterateur and American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) standard and regulation. The sections were Privilege management and resources, pharmacist prescribing and therapeutic interchange, clinical and administration privilege, drug monitoring, and healthcare education. The 5-point Likert response scale system closed and ended questions used. An electronic questionnaire distributed to the hospital pharmacy directors, or deputy director or pharmacy quality management or clinical pharmacy coordinators, or any pharmacist assigned on behalf of hospital pharmacy director. The study discussed and analyzed pharmacist privilege in Saudi Arabia: Pharmacist prescribing and Therapeutic interchange. All analysis is done through survey monkey system.

Table 2: The type class of medication involved in therapeutic Interchange program with pharmacist privilege

Answer Options	Response Count	Response Percentages
Antacid	10	27.78%
Vitamins	19	52.78%
Electrolytes	17	47.22%
Cephalosporin	8	22.22%
Laxatives	10	27.78%
Topical Corticosteroids	7	19.44%
NSAIDs	23	63.89%
Vaginal Antifungal	3	8.33%
Anti-Histamine	15	41.67%
OTC Drugs	5	13.89%
Non any medications	4	11.11%
Answered	36	
Skipped	0	

Table 3: The type of the methods of prescribing medication privilege

Answer Options	Response Count	Response Percentages
Pharmacokinetic consultation	18	50.00%
When prescription cosigned by physician	19	52.78%
Drugs under prescribing protocol	18	50.00%
Medications Refill Clinic	17	47.22%
Ambulatory Care Clinic	19	52.78%
Supply and ostomy products	10	27.78%
Non	3	8.33%
Answered	36	
Skipped	0	

Results

The survey distributed to 36 of hospitals. The pharmacist privilege of prescribing was at 12 (32.14%) hospital only. The most medications had pharmacist prescribing was OTC Medications 19 (90.48%) and Vitamins 14 (66.67%) followed by Minerals 11 (52.38%) and Electrolytes 10 (47.62%) while through therapeutic interchange program the most medications were NSAIDs 23 (63.89%) and Vitamins 19 (52.78%) Electrolytes 17 (47.22%) Anti-Histamine 15 (41.67%). The pharmacist prescribes medication through Ambulatory Care Clinic 19 (52.78%), and When prescription cosigned by physician 19 (52.78%). The average of pharmacist privilege in the hospital Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE) was 3.17 (63.46%), while the average of pharmacist privilege in the hospital Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE) Alerting System was 2.97 (59.46%).

Table 1: Pharmacist privilege prescribing

Pattern of the pharmacist have the privilege to write medication orders or prescriptions		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	12	32.14%
No	24	67.86%
Answered	36	
Skipped	0	
The class of medication that you have privilege prescribing		
Answer Options	Response Count	Response Percentages
Aminoglycoside	3	14.29%
Antibiotics	6	28.57%
Anticoagulant	8	38.10%
OTC Medications	19	90.48%
Anti-Hypertensive	4	19.05%
Pain management medications	3	14.29%
Electrolytes	10	47.62%
Vitamins	14	66.67%
Minerals	11	52.38%
Thrombolytic	2	9.52%
Anti-depressions	4	19.05%
Anti-Psychotics	1	4.76%
Anti-convulsing	2	9.52%
Other (most commonly prescribed medication)	2	9.52%
Answered	21	
Skipped	15	

Conclusion

The pharmacist privilege prescribing was very low in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The most medication prescribed by the pharmacist were over the counter drugs. The electronic pharmacist privilege is not adequate. The implementation of the comprehensive pharmacist privilege system and regulations are highly recommended in Saudi Arabia

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