

## Needs assessment in continuing medical education (CME) programs for community pharmacists in Isfahan University of Medical Sciences

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**Background and Aims:** Acquiring viewpoints of continuing medical education (CME) program's participants about various aspects of these programs is of special importance. The aim of this study was to determine the needs of education in CME programs by assessing the pharmacists' points of view and motivation for more active participation in these programs.

**Methods:** In this descriptive cross-sectional study carried out in Isfahan University of Medical Sciences (IUMS), from October 2011 to April 2012, 142 Pharmacists were randomly assigned among participants. Self-administered questionnaires were used and their face and content validity and reliability were evaluated by CME experts and Cronbach's alpha measurement respectively.

**Results:** The main reason for participating in CME programs indicated by pharmacists was restoring their previous knowledge and acquiring new information (84.5%). Fifty seven of pharmacists insisted on applied aspects of CME programs and the clinical pharmacology and therapeutics was stated as the most interested concept by them (50%). Fifty two percent of participants selected a combination of lecture and panel discussion as an appropriate method for CME presentation. The programs' levels in knowledge and skills or attitude promotion were evaluated high and very high by 41.9 and 44.5% of pharmacists respectively.

**Conclusions:** Most community pharmacists participated in CME programs of IUMS had good attendance and cooperation with this study and it seems that CME programs were reasonably in accordance to their expectations. The participants had also many interesting and valuable comments and expectations which planning future programs based on them may lead to enhance their motivation and improving their quality and satisfaction.

**Keywords:** CME programs; Pharmacists; Needs assessment; Medical education