

Clinical pharmacists' interventions in a teaching hospital: Types, severity, procedures, and accuracy

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Background and Aims: More recently the role of pharmacists has changed from traditional activities to a greater involvement in pharmaceutical care. There have been several years of experience in clinical pharmacy program in Masih Daneshvari hospital, Tehran, Iran. The objective of this study was to provide a detailed analysis of the clinical pharmacists' interventions on inpatients performed during 28 months.

Methods: The authors retrospectively reviewed the notes of all interventions and entered them in a designed SPSS sheet. FARM note was applied to document data. Severity assessment was based on a modified version of Safety Assessment Code (SAC)-score.

Results: Totally, 3152 cases (2227 interventions and 925 patients' visits) were classified and analyzed in this study. Among all types of interventions, "improper medication use"(36.2%) was the most frequent intervention and among categories (subgroups) of "improper medication use", "untreated indication" was the most frequent (23.7%). 75.4% of interventions were estimated as of minor potential inconvenience to the patient (severity degree 1). 78% of all interventions were finally recommended to the prescriber. 97.6% of interventions were right.

Conclusions: Clinical pharmacists' interventions are highly demanded in our hospital. Based on the results of our study, conditions needing medication to prevent later complications in the course of therapy are sometimes ignored, which emphasizes the positive role of clinical pharmacists' involvements in therapeutic team to improve outcome.

Keywords: Pharmacist; Clinical pharmacist; Intervention; Documentation; Pharmaceutical care