

A survey of knowledge, attitude and practice of nurses towards pharmacovigilance in teaching hospital, Qazvin-Iran

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Background and Aims: The safety of medicines and risk management is an essential part of patient safety. Risk management achieved by reducing the adverse drug reactions, hospital infections and increase surgery safety. ADRs (Adverse Drug Reactions) are among the leading causes of death in many countries. Preventing and detecting adverse effects from medicines by national spontaneous reporting system (Yellow Card Scheme), is an important method for patient safety. The present study was undertaken to evaluate the knowledge, attitude, and practices regarding ADR reporting among nurses in teaching hospital, Qazvin, to get an insight into the causes of under-reporting of ADRs.

Methods: This is a descriptive study using an adverse drug reactions questionnaire. A tested questionnaire comprising of 15 questions (knowledge 6, attitude 5, and practice 13) was administered to 218 nurses. The questionnaires were assessed for their completeness (maximum score 100) and the type of responses regarding ADR reporting. Microsoft Excel worksheets were used for statistical analysis.

Results: The paper finds that 87% of nurses were familiar with adverse drug reactions center. They were familiar with symposiums, workshops and posters. However, only 47% of this staff had reported adverse drug reactions with Yellow Card Scheme. The reasons cited for this were lack of information on where (57%) and how (68%) to report and the lack of access to reporting forms (49%) and legal complaints (87%). Preferred methods for reporting were e-mail and personal communication.

Conclusions: The most important reason of under reporting ADRs is inadequate view about goals and benefits of ADRs reporting. Creating awareness about ADR reporting and devising means to make it easy and convenient may aid in improving spontaneous reporting. Also, it is necessary to establish a strictly confidential, non-punitive reporting scheme that supports learning and knowledge and the one that is separate from any disciplinary scheme.

Keywords: Knowledge; Attitude; Practice; Nurses; Pharmacovigilance