



Institut National de Santé Publique, d'Épidémiologie Clinique et de Toxicologie

POLICY BRIEF

CLINICAL PHARMACY & PHARMACO-EPIDEMIOLOGY AXIS

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Title: Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmaco-Epidemiology: Tools and Practice Guidelines

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SUMMARY

The clinical pharmacy and pharmaco-epidemiology axis within INSPECT-LB is conducting research on the rational use of medications in clinical and epidemiological settings, in the community and in hospitals. Topics covered are diverse and include the application of clinical guidelines related to drug treatment, the evaluation of medication prescription and administration, medication use review, medication safety and pharmacovigilance, and medication errors.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS/MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

- Proceed with the electronic Patient Profile project, and optimize it to reach Medication Therapy Management by the pharmacist in both community and hospital settings.
- Proceed with the Medication Safety System implementation to promote pharmacovigilance and medication errors prevention.
- Generate guidelines for medication use in selected clinical conditions and special populations (elderly, children, pregnant women, specific organ failure...).
- Promote awareness and educational campaigns to lay public particularly about chronic diseases medications and antimicrobial resistance.
- Encourage the use of tools related to medications that are made available to clinicians, such as adherence to treatment by patients.
- Define the professional framework of hospital and clinical pharmacists (implementation of related laws, specialty titles and credentialing conditions, improvement of work conditions).

SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

Introduction

In Lebanon, despite the presence of a big pharmacy workforce, pharmacists still do not apply clinical pharmacy or health promotion related to medications, due to the absence of legal frameworks related to these matters. The scope and variety of topics in this axis were inspired by daily practice needs in hospital or community settings.

Background and Outcomes

The role of the clinical pharmacist in optimizing patient care has been internationally demonstrated. In Lebanon, several studies were conducted and showed that the Lebanese patient would benefit from the presence of the clinical pharmacists [1]. Research covered several age groups and various topics ranging from assessment of treatment guidelines in practice and tools for evaluation of medication use [2,3]; it also showed that medication use in Lebanon can be optimized at several levels: practice guidelines evaluation [4-7], prescription and administration (indication, dosing, route...) [4,7-10], medication errors [1], drug interactions [1], adverse effects [11], patients' adherence to medication regimen [12-15], patients' satisfaction [12,15] and best practice in the use of medications [1,16,13], in specific subpopulations such as elderly and drug abusers [17,18]. These

aspects may be improved in the hospital (clinical pharmacy domain) and the community (clinical community pharmacy and pharmaco-epidemiology).

Conclusion

The Lebanese population could benefit from activities related to clinical pharmacy, pharmaco-epidemiology and medication related interventions.

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