Identifying the opportunities for input to medicine management by adding a clinical pharmacist to the health care team in a Sri Lankan teaching hospital

Perera D1, Coombes J2,3, Coombes I3,4, Dawson A5,6, Jayamanne S5, Lynch C2,3, Peters N2,3, Myers B3, Guruge T6, Mohamed F5, Lum E7, De Silva A8

1. Austin Health, Melbourne, Australia
2. Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane, Australia
3. University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
4. Royal Brisbane & Women’s Hospital, Brisbane, Australia
5. South Asian Clinical Toxicology Research Collaboration
6. Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, Australia
7. Medication Services Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
8. Kelaniya University, Ragama, Sri Lanka

Aim
To identify the opportunities for input to medicine management by adding a clinical pharmacist to the ward based health care team in a Sri Lankan teaching hospital. Clinical pharmacists do not exist in Sri Lanka.

Methods
The Sri Lankan research pharmacist interviewed 202 patients on their day of discharge from hospital over 10 weeks. They reconciled their pre-admission medication regimen against the list of medicines on the first drug chart, their written record of previous medications, and private hospital paperwork available. Discrepancies and issues of non-compliance were recorded.

The pharmacist reviewed all patient data available in the Bed Head Ticket (BHT). They completed a retrospective Pharmaceutical Care Plan for each patient and evaluated the appropriateness, safety and efficacy of all drugs prescribed during the hospital admission and on discharge using the Medication Appropriateness Index Tool.

The pharmacist contacted the patient after discharge to complete a questionnaire on quality of medicine information exchanged between them and any health professional during the hospital admission.

Results
Endpoints were selected based on whether the pharmacist could impact the outcome if given the opportunity to intervene.

| Drug related problems identified by pharmacist | 513 (2.5/patient) |
| Drug related problems resolved by treating team without pharmacist intervention | 82 (16%) |
| Average score per patient using the Medication Appropriateness Index tool | 3.1 |
| Range of Medication Appropriate Index scores per patient | 0-42 |

Proportion of patients surveyed who recall being:

- Asked about their pre-admission medication regimen: 59.7%
- Asked about their previous allergies to medicines: 62.5%
- Informed about changes that have occurred to their medicines prior to discharge: 47.6%

Conclusion
Significant opportunities for pharmacist led improvement in quality use of medicines exist in the current healthcare system in Sri Lanka. Further research evaluating quantitative and qualitative impact of a ward based clinical pharmacy service on these outcomes is planned.
Opportunities for a clinical pharmacist to impact on appropriate medication use in Sri Lankan hospitals

Perera D1, Coombes J2, Coombes L1, Dawson A6, Jayamarine S4, Lynch C3, Peters N3, Myers B3, Guruge T3, Mohamed F3, Lim E2, De Silva A3

Communication to: dinesh.perera@helath.qld.gov.au

Aim
To highlight the opportunities for improvement in medication management identified by a clinical pharmacist. This is the first part of a pilot intervention study to evaluate if a contemporary clinical pharmacy service added to an existing medical unit, improves quality use of medicines and supplements standard care in a ward based health care team in a Sri Lankan teaching hospital. Practising clinical pharmacists currently do not exist in public healthcare Sri Lanka.

Methods
The Sri Lankan research clinical pharmacist:
• Medication history interviews conducted for 478 patients on their day of discharge over 22 weeks.
• Reconciled their pre-admission medication regimen against the list of medicines on the first drug chart.
• Discrepancies and issues of poor-compliance were recorded
• Reviewed all patient data available in the medical record (known as a Bed Head Ticket (BHT))
• Retrospective evaluation of the appropriateness, safety and efficacy of all drugs prescribed during the hospital admission was conducted using an adaptation of the Pharmaceutical Care Network of Europe (PCNE) drug related problems classification system1 as well as a validated tool known as the Medication Appropriateness Index2 (Contribution of 0 = appropriate through to 18 = least appropriate for each medication. There is no maximum score per patient)
• Consented patients were contacted after discharge via telephone to gain information on the quality of medicine information exchanged between them and any health professional during the hospital admission

Key results:
1274
Opportunities for drug therapy optimisation
2.7 opportunities/patient
2.7
MAI score per patient
97%
Of selected patients had at least one opportunity for drug therapy optimisation

Key messages:
• The pharmacist identified 1274 opportunities for drug therapy optimisation (2.7 opportunities/patient)
• 212 of these (16%) were resolved by the treating team without pharmacist intervention.
• The mean MAI score for discharge medications per patient was 2.7 (range 0-38)
• Almost half of all surveyed patients do not recall being asked about their pre-admission medication regimen or having their medication changes explained to them.

Conclusion
• Significant opportunities for pharmacist intervention to improve in quality use of medicines exist in the current healthcare system in Sri Lanka.
• Further research evaluating quantitative and qualitative impact of a ward based clinical pharmacy service on these outcomes is planned.

References