

THE JUSTIFICATION OF CLINICAL PHARMACY SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR MODERN COMMUNITY PHARMACIST

Maja Koraćević^{1,2}, Aleksandra Catić-Djordjević¹, Nikola Stefanović¹, Ivana Damnjanović¹,
Ivana Stošić¹, Radmila Veličković-Radovanović^{1,3}

¹University of Niš, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Pharmacy, Niš, Serbia

²University of Niš, Innovation Center, Niš, Serbia

³Clinic of Nephrology, Clinical Center Niš, Niš, Serbia

Contact: Aleksandra Catić-Dorđević
81 Dr. Zoran Djindjić Blvd., 18000 Niš, Serbia
E-mail: aleksandra1610@yahoo.com

The course of pharmacy education has undergone a radical change as it aims to become more patient oriented. The primary objective of this study was to assess the association between clinical pharmacy education and daily activities of the community pharmacist (CP) including recognition and solution of drug-related problems (DRP). Furthermore, we wanted to investigate CPs' attitudes regarding knowledge and skills that can be required for routine community pharmacy practice. The simple questionnaire was formed to evaluate the significance of the implementation of clinical pharmacy course in the education of CPs. The questionnaires were sent by post or email or they were provided directly by one of the researcher. Data acquired from 234 CPs were divided into two groups: clinical pharmacy education group (CPEG) and non-clinical pharmacy education group (NCEG). The most frequent DRP recognized by respondents (CPEG and NCEG) were drug interactions, followed by suboptimal efficacy of the treatment and inappropriate dosage selection. Additionally, CPEG statistically more frequently than NCEG recognized low adherence ($p < 0.05$), while NCEG more frequently recognized inappropriate dosing interval ($p < 0.05$) and omitted drugs, that should have been prescribed ($p < 0.05$). The respondents agreed that knowledge of drug therapy, therapeutic planning skills and critical evaluation of drug information skills were the most important clinical pharmacy skills and knowledge required for modern community pharmacy practice. Still, CPEG gave advantage to the knowledge of laboratory and diagnostic skills compared to NCEG ($p < 0.05$). This study indicated that clinical pharmacy education can move the focus of the CPs towards a patient, but still positions drug in the center of their activity. The pharmacists with the clinical pharmacy education considered the knowledge of laboratory and diagnostic skills to be of significant importance, which confirms the ongoing change in pharmacist orientation.

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