

TITLE OF THE STUDY – A STEP TOWARDS MEDICATION SAFETY : IMPACT OF CLINICAL PHARMACIST

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INTRODUCTION

Medication errors are an unfortunate reality in hospitals which can increase the cost, prolong hospital stay and increase risk of death.

OBJECTIVE

Aim of this study was to assess the impact of clinical pharmacist intervention on medication errors in tertiary care hospital.

METHODOLOGY

A cross sectional observational study was conducted for a period of 7 months for the In-patients of a tertiary care hospital. Study was categorized into 3 phases: Pre-implementation (1st three months) Implementation (2nd two months) and Post-implementation phase (final two month) to compare the influence of interventions by clinical pharmacists.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During Phase I, Phase II and Phase III; 1050, 1044, 1230 files were audited, out of which 14, 159, 182 medication errors were identified respectively. Medication errors were predominantly observed in males (69%) than in females (31%), with a mean age of 53± 18.4. Majority of the interventions provided by clinical pharmacist were on drug dose related problems (37%). On applying paired t-test, a significant difference in errors were observed between PHASE I vs. PHASE II (P =0.003) and PHASE I vs. PHASE III (P = 0.007) suggesting improved reporting of medication errors in last two phases. From PHASE II to PHASE III there was no significant reduction in errors. But a significant reduction was observed in errors between the two months of PHASE III (P = 0.002). As per NCCMERP index, NO ERROR has increased by 21% and ERROR NO HARM, ERROR HARM has reduced by 12%, 9% respectively which signifies that error severity pattern change to better patient safety in PHASE III.

CONCLUSION

This study shows that Clinical pharmacist play a major role in detection and correction/prevention of medication errors, thereby promote patient safety and improve quality of patient care.

KEYWORDS –

Medication errors
Clinical Pharmacists
Intervention