

Evolution of Pharmaceutical Care definitions: The PCNE definition 2013

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Background and Objectives

What is Pharmaceutical Care in 2013? The answer to this question is essential, when developing guidelines for Pharmaceutical Care (PhC). During a moderated one-day meeting prior to the PCNE working conference 2013, 14 members of PCNE and 10 additional experts developed a PCNE definition of PhC^{1,2}. All participants of the pre-conference meeting received a summary of an extensive literature review two weeks in advance. The aims of this work were to review existing definitions of PhC and to show their evolution until the contemporary PCNE definition.

Methods

Literature search

We conducted a literature search in the MEDLINE database (1964 to January 2013). Keywords included „Pharmaceutical Care”, „Medication (Therapy) Management”, „Medicine Management” and „Pharmacist Care” in the title or abstract together with the term „defin*”. To ease comparison between definitions, we developed a standardised syntax to paraphrase the definitions (see **Figure 1**).

Workshop for definition development

In order to achieve a consensus of all invited experts, we chose a method in accordance with the “Consensus-Oriented Decision-Making model” developed by Tim Hartnett³. Working groups of various sizes developed intermediate PhC definitions until all participants consented on one definition.

“Pharmaceutical Care is the pharmacist’s contribution to the care of individuals in order to optimise medicines use and improve health outcomes.”

New PCNE definition of Pharmaceutical Care (2013)

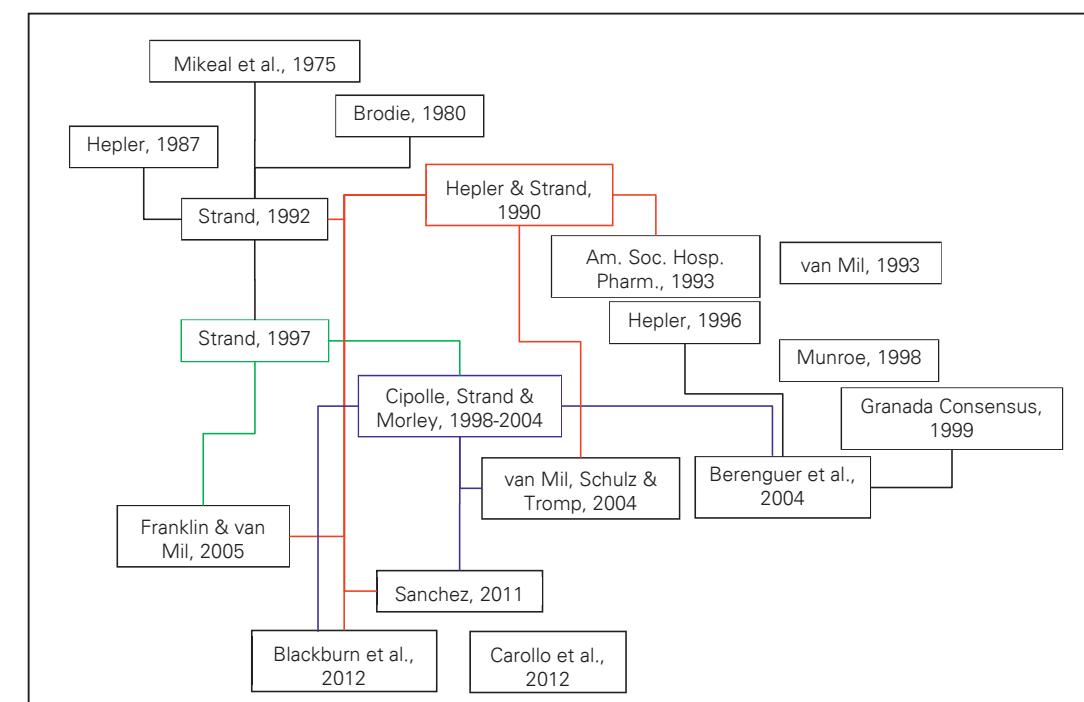


Figure 2: Relations between Pharmaceutical Care definitions from 1964 – 2013. Lines represent references to the previously published definitions.

Results

The initial literature search produced 186 hits, with 8 unique PhC definitions. Hand searching identified a further 11 unique definitions (see **Figure 2**). Analysing the paraphrased definitions revealed the attributes and corresponding frequency for each domain as illustrated in **Figure 1**.

Pharmaceutical Care is the care of ...

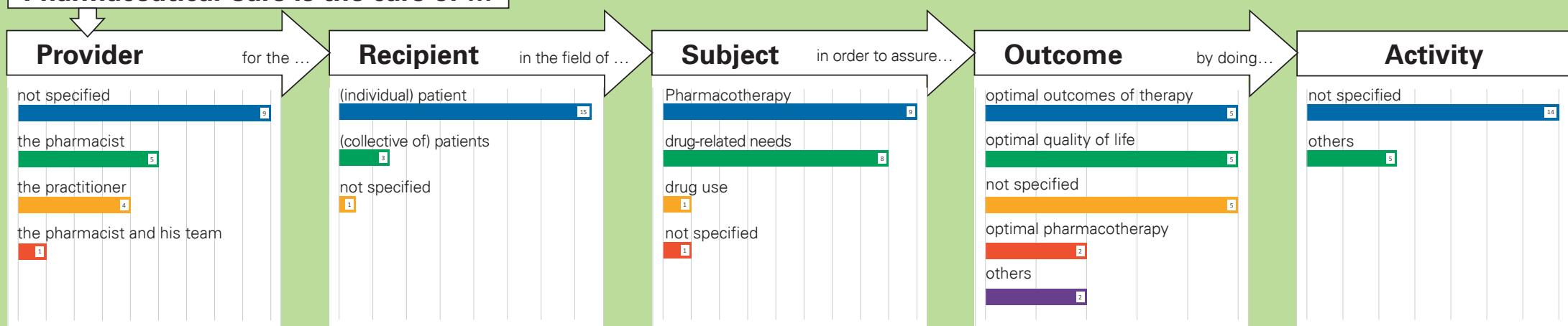


Figure 1: Standardised syntax for PhC definitions with the results from the literature search. The bar diagrams indicate the frequency of occurrence in the 19 individual definitions.

Conclusion

It was possible to paraphrase definitions of PhC using a standardised syntax focusing on the provider, recipient, subject, outcomes, and activities included in PhC practice. The attributes for each domain differ greatly between definitions, making it difficult to differentiate PhC from other terms and to decide what it includes. The contemporary PCNE definition of PhC may be used as a guideline for European researchers and, ultimately, practitioners to describe their research, activities in patient care, and teaching activities.

Literature

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- Hartnett T. Consensus-Oriented Decision-Making: The CODM Model for Facilitating Groups to Widespread Agreement: New Society Publishers; 2013.

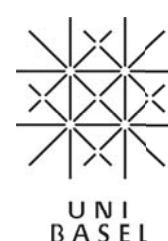


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