



Use of Pharmis[®] drug blister in Switzerland
**An evaluation at pharmacist's, physician's and
patient's level**

Master Thesis

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1. Abstract

Background

Non-compliance is a serious problem and occurs with a rate of 50%. Drug reminder packaging such as Pharmis® could be a solution for elderly and forgetful persons with complex drug therapies. Drug reminder packaging is widely used in Switzerland to facilitate drug administration. A recent Cochrane Review by Heneghan et al. could give no clear recommendation for their use. Moreover, no studies on the use of drug reminder packaging were conducted on the European Continent. Studies about Pharmis® drug blister have not yet been conducted in Switzerland.

Objectives

To investigate specific data on the use of Pharmis® drug blister in Switzerland, including the evaluation of experiences, benefits and expenditures among distributing pharmacies. In addition, patients' opinion on satisfaction, needs and benefits as well as problems in handling should be assessed. Physicians' opinions should be assessed to.

Methods

A self-developed questionnaire was sent to all pharmacies providing Pharmis® drug blister. Pharmacies of the cantons Basel-Stadt and Basel-Landschaft that provided Pharmis® drug blister for ambulatory patients were contacted and informed about patient recruiting. Patients were approached by pharmacists. Information material and informed consent form were distributed by pharmacists to eligible patients. Patients who signed informed consent were contacted and interviewed with a self-developed patient interview guide. Physicians of interviewed patients were intended to be contacted by mail and asked to fill a self-developed questionnaire.

Results

A total of 52 pharmacies provided Pharmis® drug packaging. A total of 1873 patients were supported with Pharmis® drug blister, 256 (14%) were ambulatory patients. Time required for producing a blister pack (administration, filing, sealing) was on average 19.8 minutes. Out of 40 pharmacies, 38 (95%) closed the blister by agglutination and 2 (5%) by heat sealing. Twenty-nine pharmacies (72.2%) evaluated the space requirement for blister material, working stations and drug storage as appropriate. Thirty-eight of the pharmacies (95%) indicated that they were able to make a name of themselves since the introduction of Pharmis® packaging service (profiling). Thirty-nine of the pharmacies (97.5%) answered that a better possibility in controlling compliance results with Pharmis® drug blister. Thirty-two of the pharmacies (80%) indicated that there resulted a waste prevention in case of medication changes since the introduction of Pharmis® drug packaging. Fifteen of the pharmacies (37.5) answered that the use of Pharmis® Software was complicated.

Conclusion

In summary it appears, that pharmacies are satisfied with Pharmis® drug blister. Production was assessed as rather easy and several benefits since the introduction of Pharmis® packaging service as for example profiling of the pharmacy or better possibility to control patients' compliance were mentioned. There are criticisms mostly concerning Pharmis® Software. Further studies are necessary about Pharmis® packaging service. More patients' data about opinions on satisfaction, handling of Pharmis® drug blister and design are required to draw definitive conclusions.