A Computer program for evaluating pharmacists' ability to identify clinically significant drug-drug interactions
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Drug interactions would increase incidence of adverse drug events, hospitalization, and mortality. Pharmacists' ability in screening of drug interactions would decrease incidence of drug interactions. This study aimed to assess 1) ability of pharmacists and pharmacy students in screening clinically important drug interactions 2) satisfaction of pharmacists and pharmacy students on the computer program. Participants included 8 pharmacists from two district hospitals and 139 pharmacy students in year 4 and 5. At pretest, ability of pharmacists and pharmacy students in screening drug interactions was not significant different (64.87±14.34, 55.28±14.72, respectively, P=0.075). At posttest, both pharmacists and pharmacy students had higher score than their baseline (86.5±4.46 and 77.07±15.06, respectively). All of the pharmacists could increase their ability score of drug interactions screening by using our computer program while 90% of pharmacy students could increase their scores. An accuracy of screening was decreased when the number of items in prescription was increased. The well recognized pairs of drug interactions among participants were theophylline/cimetidine, lithium/hydrochlorothiazide, warfarin/pentobarbital. Pharmacists and pharmacist students were satisfied by the computer program. Satisfaction score of pharmacists on the program was 66.87 ± 9.18 whereas satisfaction score of pharmacy students was 69.26 ±9.53. In conclusion, computer program could be used to assess ability of pharmacist and pharmacist students in screening clinical important drug interactions. The program could be used as the computer assisted information with good satisfaction level of user.

Pharmaceutical care service in Cardiac care unit, Sapprasittiprasong hospital

Introduction: Pharmaceutical care service has been generally accepted for improving safety, therapeutic outcomes and consequently the patient quality of life. Since the critically ill patient in cardiac care unit is very complicated and has high risk of drug related problems, the pharmaceutical care must be carried out to ensure the optimal drug therapy with minimum side effect. The objectives of this study are to describe the pharmacist’s activities and the results of pharmaceutical care service in Cardiac care unit, Sapprasittiprasong hospital. Material and method: Pharmacists provided the pharmaceutical care activities to multidisciplinary team in Cardiac care unit including medication reconciliation, drugs/discharge counseling, drug information service (DIS) and management of drug related problem. All activities and drug related problems data were collected with Pharmaceutical care database program 1.2.20 on a daily basis. Results: During September 2010 to September 2011, 770 patients were admitted at Cardiac care unit. Pharmacists provided the medication reconciliations in 546 patients (70.9%), drugs/discharge counseling in 633 patients (85.1%) and DIS 26 times. Eighty-six drug related problems were detected including 22 needs for additional drug therapy, 6 improper drug selections, 15 improper dosage regimen, 8 failures to receive medication, 14 non-compliances, 3 drug interactions, 6 duplication/repeated for therapy and 4 others unclassified medication problems. All drug related problems were interened to physician 56 times, nurse 6 times and another medical staffs 24 times. The intervention outcomes consisted of 77 acceptances (89.5%), 4 rejections (4.7%) and 5 interventions (5.8%) which we cannot be assessed the outcome. The most acceptance intervention was related to need for additional drug therapy. The estimated cost avoidance due to was as achieving the medication reconciliation at admission high as 54,461 baths per year. Conclusion: Pharmaceutical care service in cardiac care unit can help in prevention and resolution of drug related problem, which improve the clinical outcome and reduce unnecessary medication cost.

Keywords: pharmaceutical care, cardiac care unit, drug related problem

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