



INTRODUCTION

Community pharmacists interact with other healthcare professionals in recommending pharmacotherapy and drug therapy.

The Validation Method for Community Pharmacy helps to demonstrate the effectiveness of the pharmacist in the community. It is a quality care system developed by Azzopardi¹ in 2000 which was updated by Scicluna² in 2012.

AIMS

- To update the current Validation Method for Community Pharmacy
- To analyse the willingness of a self-evaluation validation exercise by pharmacists
- To draw conclusions on how this exercise should be sustained and taken forward in the future

METHOD

Phase 1

The Internal and External validation tools adopted by Azzopardi¹ (2000) and Scicluna² (2012) were updated.

Phase 2

A focus group comprising of four physicians, four health care professionals and two lay people was set up to ensure validity of the updated content. The suggestions put forward by the group were used to validate the updated tools.

Phase 3

A self-evaluation questionnaire was sent out to 100 local community pharmacies that were chosen at random.

Phase 4

A website was then set up where relevant articles were uploaded for pharmacists to read in order to gain confidence whilst practicing and in so doing increase their knowledge on the validation tools.

RESULTS

The focus group believed that the study was positive and the majority agreed with the updates carried out. All 10 members agreed on the strict legislation that is enforced with respect to the dispensing of dangerous drugs and on the inclusion of this aspect. The 10 respondents also believed that the pharmacist is able to treat minor illnesses and recognizing major diseases. Although answering in the affirmative, 1 respondent argued that guidelines for pharmacists should be introduced in this regard.

A response rate of 70% was achieved for the questionnaire. Sixty-six of the respondents were in favour of having the validation process completed regularly by the community pharmacist as part of the community service, with 41 respondents believing that it should be done annually.

Validation Tool	Update
Setting up of the Pharmacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral and Dental Care • Sexual Health Advice • Substance Misuse • Cardiovascular Health • Breast Cancer Screening
Dispensing a Prescription	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat Dispensing • Dispensing Green Prescriptions
Responding to Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Illness and Minor Disease
Communicating with the Patient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Patient Centred Consultations • Context Specific Skills • Delivering a comprehensive approach to patient care • Understanding health needs of the local population • Essential features relating to the individual regarding the profession

Table 1: Updates of the original Validation of Community Pharmacy tools

CONCLUSION

Through this study, the validation process was reviewed and key sections namely 'Dispensing of Prescriptions' and 'Communicating with the Patient' were revised. The results indicate that a framework where the Validation Method for Community Pharmacy is self-implemented may be feasible.

References:

¹ Azzopardi LM. Validation Instruments for Community Pharmacy: Pharmaceutical Care for the Third Millennium. USA: Pharmaceutical Products Press; 2000.

² Scicluna C. Azzopardi LM, Serracino Inglott A. Validation Instruments for Community Pharmacy: An Update. Germany. Lambert ; 2012.