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Topics covered include: medicines utilisation, medicine management, medicines distribution, supply and administration, pharmaceutical services, professional and patient/lay perspectives, pharmaceutical public health (including, e.g. health promotion, needs assessment, health protection) evidence based practice, pharmacy education.

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Knowledge and practice of pharmaceutical care among hospital pharmacists in Abuja

O.P. Adigwe^a, J. Alfa^b and A.B. Umoru^b

^aHealth Policy Research and Development Unit, National Assembly, Abuja, Nigeria and ^bDepartment of Pharmaceutical Services National Assembly, Abuja, Nigeria
o.p.adigwe@gmail.com

Pharmaceutical care refers to the provision of drug therapy for the purpose of achieving definite outcomes aimed at improving a patient's quality of life [1]. Pharmaceutical care therefore serves as a means of achieving patient-centred approach in healthcare provision while at the same time providing a framework for the efficient and effective utilisation of the pharmacist's skills [2]. This is a critical factor in healthcare provision in resource scarce settings.

This study aimed at exploring knowledge and practice of pharmaceutical care among Nigerian hospital pharmacists.

Following ethics approval from the National Assembly management, a paper questionnaire was designed to collect data from 5 secondary and tertiary hospitals in Abuja, Nigeria. In addition to demographic data, other items were included to explore knowledge and practices with respect to pharmaceutical care. The questionnaire was content validated by an expert panel. Only registered pharmacists practising within the hospital setting were eligible and respondents were selected using a multistage sampling strategy. Data collection was carried out in March and April 2015 by five research assistants who had been trained to eliminate bias due to inter-rater reliability. Descriptive and inferential analyses were undertaken using SPSS (version 17). Analysis included cross tabulation and chi square. Threshold for statistical significance was set a priori at 0.05.

A response rate of 88% (132/150) was achieved with the males constituting a slight majority (56.8%). The sample had a mean age of 33 (SD = 7.82) and the majority had been practicing pharmacy for ten years or less (75%). The majority had heard about pharmaceutical care (98%) but only 47% said that it was always practised in their establishments. Regarding their practice of pharmaceutical care, over half (61%) of the respondents documented their pharma-

ceutical care interventions but only 7% employed electronic software for recording and storing patients' details. The majority of those who documented interventions (61%) qualified within the last decade compared to their colleagues who had practised for longer ($P < 0.05$). This finding was statistically significant. All the respondents who recorded interventions electronically (100%) belonged to the group that qualified within the last decade ($P < 0.05$) also indicating statistical significance.

The findings of this survey provide some important insights into pharmaceutical care practice among Nigerian hospital pharmacists. Evidence from this study indicates that although Nigerian pharmacists were knowledgeable about pharmaceutical care, the practice was below average in certain areas. The area with the greatest deficiencies was with respect to the documentation of interventions. Internationally, pharmaceutical care has been associated with overall better therapeutic outcomes for patients, meaning that it can help improve the quality of healthcare in Nigeria. Based on the evidence, obvious areas for targeted improvement include training pharmacists on recording, documentation and follow-up. Pharmacists who are older in the profession should be prioritised as it appears that this group may need the most training areas such as electronic recording. Although the study's findings are limited by the sample size, it can begin to provide some insight into strategies for developing policies to guide pharmaceutical care development and implementation.

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Outpatient parenteral antibiotic therapy (OPAT) – a qualitative study of patient perspectives in those choosing not to self-administer

A.P. Tonna^a, V. Paudyal^a, K. Forbes-McKay^b, S. Falconer^c, G. Anthony^a, I. Tonna^c, R. Laing^c, A. Mackenzie^c, G. Macartney^c and D. Stewart^a

^aSchool of Pharmacy and Life Sciences, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen AB10 7GJ ^bSchool of Applied Social Studies, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen AB10 7GJ and ^cWard 111, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen AB25 2ZN
a.tonna@rgu.ac.uk

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