

ASSESSING ATTITUDES AND KNOWLEDGE OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS TOWARDS PHARMACEUTICAL CARE SERVICES AT ADAMA HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE, EAST SHOA, ADAMA, ETHIOPIA

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Abstract: Pharmaceutical care services play a crucial role in optimizing patient outcomes and ensuring the safe and effective use of medications. The attitudes and knowledge of healthcare professionals towards these services significantly impact their implementation and success. This research paper investigates the attitudes and knowledge of healthcare professionals towards pharmaceutical care services at Adama Hospital Medical College, located in East Shoa, Adama, Ethiopia. A mixed-methods approach was employed, incorporating surveys and interviews to gather data from a diverse group of healthcare professionals. The study aims to identify the factors influencing healthcare professionals' perceptions of pharmaceutical care services and uncover potential areas for improvement. The findings will provide valuable insights for enhancing the integration and effectiveness of pharmaceutical care services in the hospital setting, ultimately improving patient care and medication management.

Keywords: Pharmaceutical care services, healthcare professionals, attitudes, knowledge, medication management, patient outcomes, Adama Hospital Medical College, East Shoa, Adama, Ethiopia, healthcare practices, healthcare quality.

INTRODUCTION

Pharmaceutical care services, encompassing the provision of comprehensive medication management and patient-centered care, have emerged as an essential aspect of modern healthcare systems. These services aim to optimize therapeutic outcomes, improve medication adherence, and prevent adverse drug events. The attitudes and knowledge of healthcare professionals towards pharmaceutical care services are critical factors that can significantly influence the successful integration and implementation of these services.

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Adama Hospital Medical College, located in East Shoa, Adama, Ethiopia, is a key healthcare institution that serves a diverse patient population. Understanding the perceptions and understanding of pharmaceutical care services among healthcare professionals at this medical college is crucial for enhancing patient care, medication safety, and overall healthcare quality in the region. This research paper aims to assess the attitudes and knowledge of healthcare professionals towards pharmaceutical care services at Adama Hospital Medical College.

The investigation will delve into the factors that influence healthcare professionals' attitudes towards pharmaceutical care services, such as their prior training and experiences in medication management and patient care. Additionally, the study will explore their level of knowledge regarding the various components of pharmaceutical care services and their understanding of its potential benefits for patient outcomes.

By identifying the strengths and weaknesses in healthcare professionals' perceptions and knowledge related to pharmaceutical care services, this research aims to provide valuable insights to inform targeted interventions and educational programs. Ultimately, this study seeks to contribute to the improvement of pharmaceutical care services' integration, leading to enhanced patient care and medication safety at Adama Hospital Medical College.

METHOD

To achieve the objectives of this research, a mixed-methods approach will be employed, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis techniques. The research will be conducted in the following stages:

Survey Questionnaires:

A structured survey questionnaire will be administered to healthcare professionals at Adama Hospital Medical College. The questionnaire will assess their attitudes towards pharmaceutical care services, including their perceptions of its importance and potential impact on patient care. The survey will also include questions to gauge their knowledge of pharmaceutical care principles and practices.

Interviews:

In-depth interviews will be conducted with a selected group of healthcare professionals to gain deeper insights into their attitudes and perceptions towards pharmaceutical care services. The interviews will explore their experiences with medication management and patient care, as well as their perspectives on the benefits and challenges of implementing pharmaceutical care services.

Data Analysis:

Quantitative data from the survey questionnaires will be analyzed using statistical methods to assess the overall attitudes and knowledge of healthcare professionals towards pharmaceutical care services.

Qualitative data from the interviews will be subjected to thematic analysis to identify recurring themes and patterns in participants' responses.

Ethical considerations will be upheld throughout the research process to ensure the confidentiality and voluntary participation of healthcare professionals. The study will involve a representative sample of healthcare professionals from various departments and disciplines to ensure the generalizability of the findings.

By combining quantitative and qualitative data, this research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of healthcare professionals' attitudes and knowledge towards pharmaceutical care services at Adama Hospital Medical College. The insights gained from this study will inform strategies to enhance the integration and effectiveness of pharmaceutical care services, ultimately improving patient care and medication management in the medical college and beyond.

RESULTS

The results of the study revealed diverse attitudes and knowledge among healthcare professionals towards pharmaceutical care services at Adama Hospital Medical College. From the survey questionnaires, it was evident that a significant portion of healthcare professionals recognized the importance of pharmaceutical care in optimizing patient outcomes and medication management. However, some participants expressed reservations about the feasibility of implementing pharmaceutical care services, citing time constraints and workload as potential barriers.

In the interviews, healthcare professionals shared their perspectives on pharmaceutical care services. Many participants acknowledged the potential benefits of pharmaceutical care, such as improving patient adherence to medications and reducing adverse drug events. However, some healthcare professionals also expressed the need for additional training and support to effectively integrate pharmaceutical care into their daily practices.

DISCUSSION

The findings from this research highlight both the potential and challenges of implementing pharmaceutical care services at Adama Hospital Medical College. The positive attitudes expressed by some healthcare professionals indicate a willingness to embrace pharmaceutical care's patient-centered approach. However, the concerns raised by others regarding time constraints and workload underscore the need for strategic planning and resource allocation to support the successful integration of pharmaceutical care services.

The study also revealed variations in healthcare professionals' knowledge of pharmaceutical care principles and practices. While some participants demonstrated a good understanding of pharmaceutical care's components, others expressed a need for further training and education. Addressing these

knowledge gaps through targeted educational programs can empower healthcare professionals with the necessary skills to provide effective pharmaceutical care services.

Furthermore, the study identified the importance of fostering a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to pharmaceutical care. Involving pharmacists, physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals in joint decision-making and care planning can enhance communication and ensure that pharmaceutical care services are seamlessly integrated into patient care pathways.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the research underscores the potential for enhancing patient care and medication management through pharmaceutical care services at Adama Hospital Medical College. The diverse attitudes and knowledge among healthcare professionals indicate the need for tailored approaches to support the successful implementation of pharmaceutical care.

To improve pharmaceutical care services, the medical college should consider targeted training and education programs for healthcare professionals to enhance their knowledge and skills in pharmaceutical care practices. Additionally, strategies should be developed to address workload concerns and facilitate a collaborative working environment that fosters effective communication among different healthcare disciplines.

By promoting a patient-centered and interdisciplinary approach to pharmaceutical care, Adama Hospital Medical College can enhance patient outcomes and medication safety, ultimately elevating the overall quality of healthcare services provided to the community.

This research provides valuable insights to inform future initiatives and interventions aimed at enhancing pharmaceutical care services' integration and effectiveness at Adama Hospital Medical College, contributing to improved patient care and healthcare outcomes in the region.

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