Background The Pharmacy Department is involved in providing information and recording adverse drug reactions (ADRs) in the national system. The Oncology/Day Hospital provides clinical data. This study increases the culture of safety and security of processing through the collection of data, helping to give statistical and epidemiological value to otherwise casual observations.

Purpose To detect adverse drugs events in oncohaematology in a systematic and timely manner: the FARMAREL project.

Materials and Methods Following the training sessions at the regional level, meetings were held every three months, to monitor progress and analyse any problems found. All haematological patients treated from April 2009 to July 2012 were monitored and if ADRs occurred, a team of physicians and pharmacists analysed the event according to the World Health Organization definition.

The ADRs observed were posted to the network using special software, set up specifically to allow computerization and real-time monitoring progress of the project, as well as statistical analysis of epidemiological data.

Results We reported a total of 74 cases, categorised by the severity of adverse events (38 not severe, 3 deaths, 3 life-threatening, 30 hospitalizations or extended hospitalisation). Among the ADRs reported the most significant clinical cases in terms of severity were: Gram-negative septic shock (suspect drug: thalidomide), intestinal infarction (bortezomib), acute renal failure (amphotericin B); hypokinetic cardiomyopathy (doxorubicin), atrioventricular conduction block (lenalidomide). The most significant case studies were presented and discussed with other participating hospitals during a meeting of Lombardy Region, and in a national conference.

Conclusions The study has increased the culture of pharmacovigilance and awareness of the clinical data constituting ADRs. The present evaluation has revealed opportunities for intervention especially for the preventable ADRs which will help in promoting safer drug use.

No conflict of interest.

INTERDISCIPLINARY TASKFORCE BRINGS DOWN PRICE OF HIV DRUGS!

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Background The board in the Danish Regions decided on a new specialist consultancy structure called ‘The Council for Use of Expensive Hospital Medicine’ (RADS). The aim of RADS is to help standardise the rational use of medicine throughout Denmark, to be achieved primarily by setting guidelines for the use of expensive hospital medicine at the clinical level. The intention is to obtain the best healthcare in relation to expenditure whilst ensuring a high quality of treatment.

Purpose The purpose of this study was to identify an effective way of implementing the RADS guidelines in a multi-centred clinical practise and optimise the pressure on the pricing of the drugs concerned. This was exemplified using data on HIV treatment.

After guidelines implementation, the price of the triple compound had dropped by 16%. Result – the price of the clinicians’ first choice medicine was acceptable to the Region.

Conclusions The interdisciplinary taskforce achieved its goals. Intensive monitoring and feedback to the clinician in charge, followed by direct management involvement and support at all centres, is an effective implementation strategy.

No conflict of interest.

INTERNAL AUDIT ON THE LABELLING OF INVESTIGATIONAL MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

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Background The purpose of labelling is to protect persons who take part to biomedical research. It must enable the product and study to be identified and the drugs to be used safely. The decree of 24 May 2006 [1] sets out the information to be included on the labelling of investigational medical product (IMPs).

Purpose To evaluate the regulatory conformity of the labelling of IMPs.

Materials and Methods An assessment grid was established from the decree of 24 May 2006. This audit investigated the labelling of the primary or secondary packaging, according to the presentation, of 135 IMPs corresponding to 75 clinical trials.

Results Of 135 labels analysed, only 11 (8.1%) bore all the information required by the legislation. On 3 labels, information didn’t appear in French. In more than 5% of the cases, information allowing identification of the product and the study and the good use of the drugs was absent from label. In other cases the following was missing: pharmaceuticical form (15.4%), route of administration (15.3%), content of the active substance (11.6%), product identification (6.88%), clinical trial reference (6.88%), patient visit number (71.9%) and storage conditions (14.4%). 57.8% of the labels came in layers. Basic information was not present on the first layer in 26.1% of the cases for the pharmaceuticical form, route of administration (55.9%), dosage (13.5%), product identification (11.7%) or storage conditions (45.8%).

Conclusions In spite of important and rigorous regulation, we noted non-conformities in labelling with sometimes important omissions. The significant number of statements required to appear on the label leads sponsors to reduce font size and to present the labels in layers. This audit highlights that the significant amount of information on the label makes it difficult to read and can lead to medicines errors, especially in elderly patients.

Reference


No conflict of interest.

INVOLVING PHARMACY TECHNICIANS IN MEDICINES RECONCILIATION IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT: WHAT CAN WE EXPECT?

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Background In 2011, the Centre Hospitalier de Valenciennes Emergency Department (ED) treated an average of 140 patients per day, and 38.8% of these patients were hospitalised. Thus, 54 patients a day were eligible for medicines reconciliation at admission.

A previous study showed that the medicines reconciliation of 46.4% of the patients admitted at the Centre Hospitalier de