

Role of pharmacists in eradicating COVID-19 pandemic condition

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Abstract

Pharmacists are globally providing health care services during pandemic conditions including patients care services, guiding patients and minimizing the patient's health risk based on facilities available in hospitals and general practices. Pharmacists exert their service to provide knowledge about drug usage as well as their contact with an increasing number of patients coming through pharmacies with the other diseases. Pharmacy associations have issued their guidelines and various examples of pharmacist's role in the COVID 19 are being discussed. This review reinstates that how pharmacists should have teamed up together to compile 10-steps protection guidelines. There is some specific point guidance's which educates community pharmacies for safety and standard operation as the number of patients in the country continues to rise. These guidelines are endorsed by the government and private bodies. Through public preventative measures initiated by WHO, the public are working together to flatten the curve. With this pandemic lockdown there will be even a greater dependence on pharmacist's services as the first point of contact to fulfill the public peoples healthcare needs. Pharmacies around the world are one of the few places that are kept open for public service even during the strict lockdown periods. Community pharmacists play their vital role in the field of healthcare department and act as healthcare provider during this pandemic infection. Community pharmacists remain on the frontline of public health by serving as direct points of access for their patients.

Hospital pharmacists play a significant role during this pandemic infection control as well as patient care and support. Reliability of information and control of scare and misinformation are crucial concerns during this world wide spread of this covid-19. Community pharmacists also continue to play their role towards public peoples to get their required medicines for regular as well as routine use with caution. This valuable information are spread on the basis of precautions related to corona virus spread including hand washing technique to the availability of face masks and instructions for their proper use and disposal. United Nations Pharmacopoeia has issued a guideline for the compounding of medicines and pharmacists and manufacturers for preparation of hand sanitizers to cope with the stock outs. Pharmacists play their roles along with other primary health care workers during this pandemic situation. A provision of COVID-19 trained health care professionals exists for supporting these health care services in the time of shortage of medical and nursing staff members and to increase the outreach of the service in India and other countries too. The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has issued a pack of 10 rules of guidance on COVID-19 outreach conditions.

American Pharmacist Association has also issued guidelines and resource documents for the strengthening and preparedness of the pharmacies as front line health care workers in this global health crisis. The community pharmacy has an unique role with ease in accessibility. In western countries the campaign against domestic violence also involved the use of the code Mask 19 to report domestic violence by the victims. Pharmacists are an integral component of healthcare performing an extraordinary role in the earlier pandemics and health crisis with some earlier infections like Ebola and Zika posing global health security risks as well. By spreading

this information in the prevention, preparedness and response to COVID-19 pandemic, community pharmacists are delivering their fantastic role towards public health care in dealing with these pandemic conditions. In most of the countries, pharmacies are working in close collaboration with defense department and the inter-national humanitarian organizations like Red Cross and local community workers to increase the awareness of public and ensure them to delivery of proper medicines based on their needs to get rid of them from this deadly pandemic condition.

Countries of middle income are in a greater need of pharmacists 'support where the patients are unable to afford their doctor fees for a consultation. In absence of a standard treatment the importance of pharmaceutical care services offering by pharmacists managing the COVID-19 cases increased many-folds. Similarly a different set of attributes and the routine conditions were observed in the pharmaceutical cares provided community pharmacists in dealing with the pandemic situation including maintaining of controlled work environment, provision of information and necessary medical supplies as well as ensuring the regular medication and counseling of patients are managed at best to avoid undue patient visits to healthcare facilities. The community pharmacists usually use all possible resources to perform their role as care providers and custodian of patient safety regarding the drug use. Pharmacists employed mobile applications in coordination with neighborhood committees and medicine companies to ensure de-livery of medicines to patients in their homes.

Normally Pharmacists responses to COVID-19 pandemic in countries have differed drastically. A lesser incidence of hospitalization and no intensive care need were attributed to better preparedness and higher exposure to multiple strains of viral respiratory infections as well as early adoption of containment strategies. With the closure of outpatients department in the private and public hospitals, there has been a great unrest among the patients with other diseases. With nowhere to go and to exercise and save themselves from the virus exposure at the hospitals, opens the door for telemedicine usage & their applications in this time of crisis. There is a growing demand for telehealth and telemedicine in the developing and developed countries. Even though with the doctors, nurses and paramedical peoples physically present in the emergency, isolation wards and quarantine centers, the pharmacists can hold to the maximum end in such a positions and can help the patients poor health issues by providing better counseling and basic consultations using a telemedicine taking the burden off the doctors and health system. The response to this COVID-19 pandemic in the shape of social distancing requiring country lockdown and close of businesses, it is very hectic situation to the daily wagers and low working class peoples. Being no were to go and no money to spend, peoples can access their nearby pharmacies to get them medical advice without paying fee and they only have to pay for the medicine what they needed. This could be a great window to showcase the role of com-munity pharmacists particularly during this health emergency.