

Pharmaceutical care: From philosophy to reality

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Since its inception some thirty years ago, the concept of pharmaceutical care is now being practiced by thousands of pharmacists across the globe. In any hospital set up, pharmaceutical care holds equal importance as that of correct diagnosis and treatment. The role of a pharmacist in pharmaceutical care is well established. Pharmaceutical care is a patient centric approach which aims to achieve tailor made results of a therapy for a particular patient. The objective is to improve the quality of life of a patient. This improvement may be achieved through prevention or cure of a disease, arresting or slowing of a disease process for example in case of Parkinson's disease and elimination or reduction of a patient's symptomatology. In pharmaceutical care, a pharmacist intelligently designs, implements and monitors a therapeutic plan in consultation with other professionals. Many studies have been conducted, which show that the provision of pharmaceutical care has its value in common pathologies such as diabetes, hypertension, asthma, hyperlipidemia, chronic pain, rheumatic diseases or psychiatric disorders, as well as in polymedicated patients. In fact, the Council of Europe has in its latest report (2012) on 'Policies and practices for a safer, more responsible and cost-effective health system' has applauded the benefits of wide-spread implementation of the pharmaceutical care philosophy. To conclude, the positive outcomes obtained with different programs of pharmaceutical care are making a beneficial change in patients' health.

Biography

Viney Chawla is working as Director, Gyani Inder Singh Institute of Professional Studies, Dehradun, India. He did his B. Pharm. (1996) from Delhi Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research, New Delhi; M. Pharm. (1998) in Pharmaceutics from Punjabi University, Patiala and Ph.D. from Gautam Buddha Technical University, Lucknow. He has published one book, one book chapter and more than 25 research/review articles in international/national journals of repute. Dr. Chawla has guided 8 M. Pharm. and more than 30 B. Pharm. projects. He is a reviewer of international journals like Current Drug Delivery, African Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology.

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