Modelling of pharmacist role in patient safety

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Recording of accurate medication history and food diet plan is an important part of initial patient assessment after admission in hospital. Pharmacist has been shown to obtain more accurate medication related information from patient than physician. In developed countries, pharmacist conducted medication histories which have been reported to save million dollars per hospital per year and reduction in mortality rate. Unfortunately, in least developed countries, especially in Pakistan, the role of the Physician is dominant. In Pakistan, Physicians have a limited knowledge of diet, food-food interaction and drug-drug interaction and override the role of pharmacist. During late January 2012, medicines given by Physicians at the Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC) hospital in the Lahore region of Punjab, Pakistan, claimed the lives of over 100 heart patients. Lack of interest in non-cooperating pharmacists in recording patient medication history and counseling of patient in determining drug-drug and food-food interaction and lack of Pharmaceutical Regulations has resulted in such a huge loss. The main aim of the paper is to draw a comparison of existing regulations and pharmacist’s role for patient safety in Pakistan with that of international standards. Moreover, a road map will be suggested for implementation in Pakistan in line with international practices.