A study to determine UK undergraduate pharmacy students’ awareness and understanding of adverse drug reaction reporting

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In the UK, healthcare professionals, patients and the public can voluntarily report a suspected adverse drug reaction (ADR) to the yellow card scheme operated by the MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency). It is recognized that pharmacists play a key role in ADR reporting and it remains essential to teach about ADR reporting in pharmacy undergraduate curricula. Furthermore, the aim of the study was to determine undergraduate fourth-year pharmacy students’ awareness and understanding of ADR reporting, as it currently remains unknown. A cross-sectional survey was distributed to the University of Wolverhampton, University of Central Lancashire, Kingston University and Liverpool John Moores University. Of 78 respondents, 50 students were unable to define an ADR. The majority of students demonstrated partial understanding of what can be reported and included on a yellow card. The majority of students understood when to report an ADR and recognized the benefits to reporting. There was an overall awareness of the yellow card scheme, reporting methods, who can report and the available resources for ADR information. The null hypothesis accepted was; the method and timing of teaching did not have an impact on the level of awareness and understanding of ADR reporting among students. The study concluded that fourth-year pharmacy students have an overall awareness and partial understanding of ADR reporting. It is recommended to implement a refresher lecture, workshop or tutorial throughout the undergraduate pharmacy course. The aim of this being to maintain undergraduate knowledge about ADR reporting, which may improve their ADR reporting rate and patient safety as practicing pharmacists.

Biography

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