

A cross-sectional comparison between the perception of physicians and pharmacists concerning the role of the pharmacist in physician training

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Abstract

Objectives: This study aimed to identify and compare physician-pharmacist perceptions concerning drug teaching to physicians by pharmacists in Swiss hospital settings.

Material and methods: Questionnaires were emailed to all French speaking physicians (survey A) and pharmacists (survey B) working in Swiss hospitals where Medical Directors/Chief-pharmacists had approved the study. Questions were developed based on previous physician interviews. Most questions used four Likert-type response alternatives. A Mann Whitney U test was used to compare answers to survey A and B.

Results: 14/18 Medical Directors and 16/16 Chief-pharmacists gave permission for the study. 244(11%) physicians answered survey A, and 115(74%) pharmacists answered survey B. Nearly all participants agreed that pharmacists should take part in both medical student and physician post-graduate training. Most physicians answered wanting additional training and pharmacists are unaware of this need. Only two thirds of physicians reported having acquired knowledge about drugs thanks to pharmacists; document diffusion and direct answers to their questions having contributed the most to their training. Participants agreed that physician training by pharmacists needs a clearer delineation regarding the type of training, its aim, its targeted public, when and what pharmaceutical benefits are used. Physicians' priority-training topics are high-risk drugs, novelties and areas in which they consider their basic training was insufficient. Methods preferred for training are: case studies; exercises with individual corrections; and group work.

Conclusion: Improved resources and planning are needed to meet physicians' expectations. Training is often carried out implicitly, through activities with various other aims, and needs to be better defined and formalized collaboratively.

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