



AN OVERVIEW PHARMACIST-NURSING RESPONSIBILITIES IN RECOGNIZING THE PROPER MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC PATIENT WITH COVID

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Abstract:

Pharmacists and nurses play a crucial role in delivering top-quality care to the community and ensuring all patients have access to medication. Pharmacists and nurses have a crucial role in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, regardless of their work environment. This review aims to emphasize the roles of community and hospital pharmacists as well as nurses during the global COVID-19 pandemic. It will clearly demonstrate their contributions in maintaining pharmacy services, supporting other healthcare professionals, and educating patients. Clinical pharmacists-nurses offer direct patient care by overseeing adverse medication reactions, customizing treatment plans, implementing evidence-based practices, and assessing pharmaceuticals in clinical trials. Community pharmacists, the most accessible healthcare providers in the community, enhance awareness of preventive measures, manage medicine supply and demand, offer drive-thru and home delivery services, provide telehealth counseling and psychological support, refer suspected COVID-19 cases, and administer vaccinations when possible.

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Introduction:

COVID-19 is defined by many and unpredictable ways of transmission, high infectivity, rapid spread, widespread occurrence, and challenges in prevention, diagnosis, and therapy. As of December 9th, there have been over 260 million confirmed cases worldwide, resulting in over 5 million fatalities [1]. The COVID-19 pandemic remains critical, particularly because to the Omicron strains causing a spike worldwide, which presents a significant challenge to the global healthcare system. It has significantly affected the global society and economy. Public and patient management, as well as infection control, are significant issues that need to be addressed and prioritized. Having an efficient and dependable system for managing the public and patients is crucial for improving preparedness and restoring normalcy [2].

China promptly devised and executed a set of successful preventative and control strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a significant decrease in the outbreak's severity throughout the country. In China, the management approach for the public and patients with COVID-19 was categorized into four parts: home quarantine, outpatient visits, hospitalization, and non-hospitalized or released patients. While in house quarantine, assess and categorize the infection risk of the public according to their epidemiological history and respiratory symptoms. Take appropriate actions, such as continuing home quarantine or seeking immediate medical attention. During the visit, patients attend regular clinics or fever clinics following precheck and triage. Patients suspected of having COVID-19 infection will undergo a variety of in-hospital disposal procedures, such as standard laboratory testing, imaging inspection, expert consultation, and viral nucleic acid testing [3,4].

Due of restricted hospital resources during the COVID-19 epidemic, it is crucial to ensure that patients are receiving necessary assistance at home. Strict compliance with medication and effective management of chronic conditions can significantly decrease the hospitalization rate of severe COVID-19 cases. Unregulated blood glucose levels can lead to microvascular and macrovascular complications of diabetes, potentially jeopardizing a patient's survival if they were to acquire COVID-19. Through telehealth, patients can receive education on their chronic diseases and medications by phone, reducing the necessity to visit the pharmacy or clinic in person [5].

Overview:

The results of epidemiological studies that have been published in the past provide evidence that it is possible for COVID-19 to be transmitted from infected persons to other individuals who are not affected, regardless of whether or not the infected individuals were experiencing symptoms. Person-to-person transmission of COVID-19 by respiratory droplets, which are produced by exhalation when breathing, sneezing, coughing, or even speaking, is the most prevalent method responsible for the spread of the virus. Additionally, the transmission of the virus can occur when a person touches their mouth, nose, or eyes after coming into contact with infected surfaces [6].

The commencement of the pandemic has prompted healthcare systems in a great number of nations all over the world to initiate the process of formulating plans and strategies that will be implemented in order to combat COVID-19 [7]. In the case that precautionary measures and preventative approaches are not taken into consideration, the virus has the potential to spread over a vast area over the course of time. Certain environmental conditions have the potential to both accelerate and expedite the transmission of the virus among humans. The following are some examples of places that have the potential to cause a viral epidemic in a society: closed work facilities, schools and colleges, bustling shopping malls, meetings of friends and colleagues, homeless communities and shelters, and a great deal more [8].

Commencement with the commencement of the epidemic, several governments throughout the world have taken the first preventive measures, which include the entire shutdown of cities, often known as lockdown. This is one of the first precautionary measures that has been taken. The fact that pharmacies were one of the few venues that continued to accept people of the community and continue to service their requirements is something that should be mentioned [9]. Through the implementation of the lockdown, it is anticipated that the transmission of COVID-19 will be minimized, which will result in a drop in the number of new cases, hospital admissions, and admissions to intensive care units (ICUs), and may also contribute to a reduction in the fatality rate. Additionally, the use of social distance between persons, the use of masks in crowded locations, the rigorous washing or sanitizing of hands often, and the reduction of the amount of time spent inside

shopping centers or malls can all help to reduce the risk of the transmission [10].

It is of the utmost importance to combine efforts in order to attain the greatest possible results in any activities that are being performed. Since the onset of the worldwide pandemic, this has been a vital responsibility that the medical personnel has been required to carry out in order to combat COVID-19. Without the participation of pharmacists, the management cycle of the COVID-19 pandemic, which includes illness management and outbreak control, would not be complete [11]. Pharmacists are the first members of the care providers staff. As of right now, pharmacists have become an extremely significant component of the team of healthcare professionals; in addition to being pharmaceutical specialists, they also serve as educators and counselors to patients. Whether they are employed in community pharmacies, factories, or as clinical pharmacists, pharmacists play a very significant role in the healthcare industry. This is true regardless of the location in which they are employed. Within the context of the fight against the virus and the containment of its propagation, as well as the management of the COVID-19 infodemic [12], all settings are taking on a multitude of tasks and actions. It is imperative that healthcare officials in every nation recognize the importance of pharmacists in order to ensure that all members of society receive the necessary level of treatment required. On the occasion of the epidemic, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) brought attention to the significant role that pharmacists play in ensuring the safety of the population [13]. On the fifth of February in the year 2020, the FIP has issued recommendations and information that are considered to be helpful about COVID-19 outbreaks. (Coronavirus 2019-nCoV outbreak: information and interim guidance for pharmacists and the pharmacy workforce) [13] was the title of the document that was created with the intention of assisting community pharmacists and hospital pharmacists in expanding their expertise. Additionally, on the nineteenth of March in the year 2020, the FIP released additional recommendations with the purpose of elucidating additional information regarding the obligations of pharmacists during this pandemic [13]. The American Medical Association (AMA), the American Pharmacists Association (APA), and the American Society of Health-system Pharmacists (ASHP) have all released a significant number of additional guidelines [13].

An increasing number of people are spreading false information about COVID-19 and counterfeit pharmaceuticals, in addition to the pandemic that is spreading at an alarming rate. The severity of this epidemic is comparable to that of the pandemic itself. As stated by the World Health Organization (WHO), the COVID-19 pandemic has been linked to an excessive volume of information, which is more commonly referred to as a "infodemic." There is a possibility that some of the information is not accurate; hence, individuals may become perplexed and have a difficult time distinguishing between truth and disinformation [13]. As a result of the dissemination of beliefs that have no basis in reality, social media contributes to the spread of disinformation. Misconceptions like this have the potential to instill dread in individuals of varying ages. It is important for individuals to verify the credibility of the source before posting anything on social media platforms because anybody may publish anything [14].

Among the healthcare professionals who have the potential to play a significant part in the fight against pharmaceutical misinformation are pharmacists. Due to the fact that they adhere to the recommendations made by health authorities and other professional groups, they are able to be regarded as a trustworthy and legitimate source of information. Pharmacists are required to be informed of the most recent developments in this epidemic and to continually update their expertise in order to provide patients with fresh and correct information, as well as to assist patients in distinguishing between reality and myth, which will ultimately result in a reduction in the amount of stress and concern that may have an impact on mental health [15].

It is possible for pharmacists and nurses to communicate vital information to individuals using a variety of channels, such as pamphlets, text messages, apps, and websites, to name a few. For instance, they may employ recommendations from the FIP. In addition, they are able to carry out campaigns to promote the right use of medicines information, as well as instructive sessions with questions and answers that may be held in a variety of locations, such as schools and community centers [16].

At the onset of this pandemic, there was a widespread dissemination of incorrect information. One example of this is the belief that chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine are viable treatments for COVID-19. As a consequence, these medications

were stocked in an inappropriate amount. As a result of the misunderstanding, a great number of individuals attempted to treat COVID-19 with untested, phony, and even hazardous treatments. These treatments included administering methanol, which was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of people in Iran; cocaine; chloroform; and exposing the body to high temperatures or taking a hot bath. Additionally, the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines (NSAIDs), such as ibuprofen, as well as the consumption of vitamin C and vitamin D, has been widely disseminated on social media as potential treatments for COVID-19 [16].

In addition, individuals have disseminated other misconceptions through the use of social media. As an illustration, low temperatures have the potential to aid in the elimination of the virus, mosquitoes have the ability to assist the transmission of the virus, and the consumption of garlic has the potential to protect humans from getting the illness, amongst other benefits. It is possible for pharmacists, who are tasked with the responsibility of enhancing public knowledge and providing individuals with accurate information, to come across all of these misunderstandings [12,16].

However, individuals who worked in the medical profession encountered fewer difficulties than those who worked in other fields. Predictably, individuals who had less access to medications, stopped taking medications, had fewer hospital visits (due to fear of infection or long procedures), or had less follow-up visits were more likely to suffer from illness complications. This was the case regardless of whether the drugs were discontinued or not. From a psychological point of view, patients who had a lower level of hope or optimism toward their condition as a result of COVID-19 experienced a greater number of problems. Our findings are consistent with those of earlier research that studied the connection between a patient's socioeconomic status (SES) and their access to medical treatment as well as the consequences of their sickness. Saydah et al. discovered that the risk of death among diabetic individuals in the United States was enhanced by factors such as access to health care, level of education, and psychological distress [17]. These findings are in agreement with our own findings.

Conclusion:

During this epidemic, various innovative roles have formed and spread to adapt to changes in order to guarantee continuity of healthcare services

and ease strain on other healthcare systems. These novel roles have emerged in addition to the conventional duties that pharmacists have traditionally played, which have become more noteworthy in light of the currently occurring conditions. However, even after the COVID-19 pandemic has been handled, it will be beneficial to continue performing some of the new responsibilities that have just been created. The function of pharmacists will be modified somewhat in order to broaden their scope and incorporate additional responsibilities. This is being done in order to protect the population and reduce the likelihood of the virus spreading. In addition, they will be obliged to gather information from reputable sources and to maintain a current knowledge base in order to be able to serve as trustworthy consultants to the community and to enhance residents' understanding.

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