

Collaborative Medication Review Practices in Europe

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Background: Collaborative Medication Review (CMR) procedures have been developed in many countries to improve rational and safe medication use. The importance of these procedures will increase as populations are ageing, which will increase the prevalence of diseases needing long-term pharmacotherapy. Some countries have advanced CMR practices that are acknowledged and integrated in health systems. Even more countries are in process of developing CMR procedures and would benefit from benchmarking practices in different countries. The aim of this study was to explore CMR practices in European countries.

Setting: Collaborative medication review practices involving pharmacists in primary care.

Method: An online survey instrument was developed in March 2011 and was sent by email to informants known to be aware of CMR practices in their country in April 2011. The informants were identified from as many European countries as possible by using existing professional networks.

Results: The survey assessed the following aspects of the CMR practices: the comprehensiveness of the procedure in terms of access to patient clinical information, patient involvement, and collaboration with the physician; availability of the service and patient inclusion criteria; quality control, accreditation and competencies required to conduct CMRs; reimbursement schemes; and the evaluation of outcomes.

Conclusions: The survey provides valuable information about current status of medication review practices in different European countries. This information can be used for learning from experiences of others and promoting pharmacists' involvement in patient care.