

Polymedication-Check – study design for a randomised controlled trial in community pharmacies

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Evaluating the newly implemented Swiss 'Polymedication-Check', a specialised medication review and screening for adherence issues, offers a large field of interesting research questions. Using the current PMC-Protocol as a structured interview guide, pharmacists are able to document their counselling on medication use issues and other drug related problems. In a randomized-controlled trial we aim at analysing 800 recruited patients from 70 study pharmacies during seven months. Primary outcome focuses on the improvement of adherence after 'Polymedication-Check' (using medication possession ratio (MPR) and patient's interviews). Second outcome is time to planned or unplanned consulting with a physician or hospitalisation. In collaboration with a clinical psychologist we developed in depth interviews on patient knowledge, risk for non-adherence, beliefs about medicines, handling difficulties and relation to physician and pharmacist. Results may lead to adapt this new service, describe new counselling issues, show the need for training or even specialised pharmacies to promote this service (= evolution) but may also describe a significant impact on pharmacists practice in the daily life setting and a change in their role and responsibility (= revolution).

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