

G-1438 Improving the management of anaphylaxis in the community: are action plans the key?

Background: Anaphylaxis is a severe form of allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may be fatal. Adrenaline autoinjector devices (AAIDs) are used first-line for anaphylaxis occurring in the community. Community pharmacists routinely supply AAIDs and play a crucial role counselling patients on how and when to use their device.

Purpose: To assess the rate and predictors of appropriate AAID demonstration and anaphylaxis counselling provided by Western Australian (WA) community pharmacists.

Methods: Using simulated patient methodology, 271 pharmacies in Perth WA, were assessed between March-April 2012. Simulated patients enacted a scenario requesting AAID demonstration by the pharmacist. Appropriate AAID demonstration (correctly demonstrating all AAID steps) and appropriate counselling (as defined by the ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis) were assessed and then recorded after each visit. Variables of interest were analysed using Chi-square or Fisher's exact tests, with predictors analysed using logistic regression.

Findings: Of 271 pharmacists, 96%(n=260) did not provide either appropriate AAID demonstration or anaphylaxis counselling. Asking whether the patient had an ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis, and using written information to support verbal counselling were predictors of appropriate demonstration and counselling (OR=16.12, p<0.001 and OR=9.39, p=0.009 respectively).

Conclusion: AAID demonstration and anaphylaxis counselling provided by pharmacists was suboptimal. ASCIA Action Plans for Anaphylaxis were identified as a tool that may significantly increase appropriate AAID demonstration and anaphylaxis counselling. Pharmacists play an important role optimising management of anaphylaxis patients. There is little research describing AAID demonstration or anaphylaxis counselling provided by pharmacists. Our study showed significant room for improvement in AAID demonstration and anaphylaxis counselling exists.

Location of Primary Work: Australia

