



PHARMACEUTICAL CARE NETWORK EUROPE

Working Conference 2013 – Abstract Collaborative pharmaceutical care in research and practice

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The above mentioned participant in the PCNE WC 2013 wishes to submit following abstract for a poster or oral communication. If accepted and presented, the abstract will be published in the International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy. Please make sure the abstract is no longer than 350 words, excl. author-details.

Title	Pharmacist-physician relationships from the pharmacist's perspective in Poland.		
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Type of abstract	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Practice development	<input type="checkbox"/> Practice implementation
Aim of project/study	To describe the professional relationships between pharmacists and general practitioners in Poland, and to identify determinants of these relationships, from the pharmacist's perspective.		
Method	A self-administered questionnaire was distributed among 3937 pharmacists. Response rate was 37.0%. Of the total 1456 responses, 1311 were usable (1156 women and 155 men, mean age 40.4 years). As dependent variables, two constructs were formed: co-responsibility (4 items) and collaboration (6 items), which referred to pharmacists' professional relations with general practitioners. All items used a 5-point Likert scale. Questions and statements were based on a literature review and discussions in research team. All of the study constructs yielded Cronbach coefficient alpha values greater than the minimum acceptable value of 0.70. The particular Cronbach coefficient alpha values were: co-responsibility (0.83) and collaboration (0.85). Face validity was established through a review of the study instrument by a panel of 5 research colleagues and by testing the original study instrument in the pretest. The statistical analysis was carried out using STATISTICA 9.1 software. Ethical approval was not required for this study.		

+++ NB: PhD students still pay the early bird fee for their abstract if their abstract is accepted ++++

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Result(s)

Most pharmacists declared that they contacted general practitioners at least once a month (70.4%). These interactions happen predominantly by phone (71.6%) or in person (37.9%) (respondents could indicate more than one answer). Interprofessional interactions usually concerned formal problems related to improperly or illegibly written prescription (88.7%). In the opinion of most surveyed pharmacists, a physician plays a predominant role in patient care (67.0%). According to half of respondents who provided that answer, pharmacists passively dispense prescribed medications, while the other half claimed that pharmacists play a substantial supporting role in patient care. The most important factors that hamper relationships between pharmacists and general practitioners include: circumstances in which relationships are established that create favourable conditions for misunderstanding to arise (51.0%), lack of preparation for cooperation between pharmacists and physicians (45.0%), and lack of an electronic system which would allow exchange of information about the patient (44.8%). The mean score from all answers was calculated for each construct. The higher the mean value, the greater the sense of pharmacists' co-responsibility for drug therapy and perception of better collaboration with general practitioners. For co-responsibility, the mean value of the construct was 3.5, and the standard deviation (SD) was 0.91. For cooperation, the mean value of the construct was 2.9 (SD=1.1).