

DO PHARMACISTS PERCEIVE THEIR ROLE IN WOUND MANAGEMENT?

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Introduction: It is widely acknowledged that appropriate wound management requires a multidisciplinary input. However, the role of the pharmacist is not clearly defined and varies across countries. As part of a course on the topic we ran a session to clarify this point.

Objective: To identify and clarify the role of pharmacists in wound management

Material and methods: 47 pharmacists from hospital and community services participated in the project. After an initial brainstorming to define possible roles at the end of which a list of roles was produced, the participants were asked to classify item with regard to its importance, ease of implementation (easy, moderate or difficult) and finally do indicate the priorities in their work area. Likert scales were used for classification. A descriptive analysis of frequencies was performed

Results: Ten possible roles were defined. Of these, participation in guideline development was considered the most important (68%) followed by pain management (63.8%) and participation in technical committees (59.5%) and teaching (51%). With regard to implementation: purchasing (76.5%) and distribution (82.9%) of appropriate materials was considered the easiest to implement. Closer contact with clinicians in the field and pain management were considered to be the most difficult to implement (89.4% considered moderately or very difficult). Priorities varied widely and no clear predominance could be defined.

Discussion and conclusions: Although pharmacists generally agree that they should be part of the wound management team, their general opinion is that they are “stuck” in their traditional role of purchasing and distribution and find it difficult to move to wider roles in spite of recognizing potentialities in this field.