



Management of Controlled Drugs in Taiwan's Hospitals: Management of Chronic Non-Malignancy Pain Patients

Ya-Ting Lin¹ (林雅婷), Chi-Shung Wong² (汪志雄), Shou-Mei Wu³ (吳秀梅), Pa-Chun Wang⁴ (王拔群)
¹Joint Commission of Taiwan, ²Department of Anesthesiology, Cathay General Hospital,
³Food and Drug Administration, Taipei, ⁴Joint Commission of Taiwan

Objectives

In accordance with Taiwan's regulations, hospitals have to establish Controlled Drugs Management Committee (CDMC) for the quality management of chronic non-malignant pain. However, the completeness and accuracy of the data presented to the Authority are in great variation. This study plans to investigate 103 Taiwan hospitals' CDMC operation.

Methods

In this national-wide survey, we collected the operation of 103 CDMCs of medical centers and regional hospitals. Of the 103 institutions, 99 returned (96.1% response rate). The questionnaire consisted of 28 questions, including basic information of CDMCs (7 single or multiple-choice questions), and 5 domains (binary question) related to the completeness of organization statutes and standard operating procedures, the integrity and quality of the case review process, tracking and auditing, management of controlled drugs, management of documents and records. The questionnaire was reviewed by expert group members, including physicians (pain clinician, anesthesiologist, psychiatry, internal medicine, surgeon, and neurologist), pharmacists and lawyers. The questionnaire was approved by Taiwan Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare.

Results

The results showed that 74% of the CDMCs are independently operated, 20% are under the hospital Pharmaceutical Management Committee, 5% are unified operated by Pharmacy Department of the hospital, and only 1% of the hospital are managed by the joint committee of control drugs administration and the pharmacy. The members of the committee comprise physicians (pain clinicians, anesthesiologists, psychiatry, internal medicine, surgeons, and neurologists) and pharmacists. 56.6% of the Chairman of the Committee is appointed by the superintendent of institutions, and 30.3% of the Chairman of the Committee is the vice-superintendent.

Review the operation of the 5 domains:

1. The compliance of the article of the committee, composition of members and operating procedures are more than 90%.
2. In review process and quality domain, 91.9% committees are able to review in accordance with the standards and procedures, 88.9% committee discusses the integrity of the overall treatment plan for the case and the medical reasoning of the use of controlled drugs, and 86.9% the committee assesses the potential health impact on the use of controlled drugs of patients, 88.9% of the committee follows the relevant specifications and 92.9% committee keeps all records of the discussions and resolutions in the meeting minutes.
3. Regarding to the management of controlled drugs, the compliance rate of the regulations on controlled drugs is as high as the 96.0%, 83.8% of CDMCs has mechanisms on reporting, monitoring, reviewing, improving and tracking the use of controlled drugs.
4. The completeness of achieving and documentation of the committee operation is over 90%.

Conclusion

The results of this survey show that the constitution and related operation procedures of Taiwan hospital CDMCs are quite complete, the chairman of the committees are hospital administration authority, and the case review procedure is complete, and the control of drug management in the supply and regulation of the hospital is in compliance with the relevant national regulations and standards, it indicates that hospitals have paid attention to the operation of the CDMC, which is responsible for improving of the quality and safety of controlled drugs on the management of chronic non-malignancy pain patients.

Acknowledgement

This research was supported by Food and Drug Administration, under Tender Project Management of Controlled Drugs Program.

Keywords: CDMC, Controlled Drugs Management Committee