

Provision of Drug Information to Older Persons at Community Pharmacy: Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Community Pharmacist in Hulu Langat, Selangor

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Abstract: Provision of drug information is one of the main roles of community pharmacist. Elderly needs more extensive health care as their physiological functions degrades by time. This study was conducted to identify the knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) & challenges of community pharmacist on provision of drug related information to older persons and assess the association between the KAP, and between the KAP and sociodemographic characteristics. Validated questionnaire was distributed to the community pharmacist in selected areas in the district of Hulu Langat, Selangor. Only 87 (83.7%) respondents agreed to participate in the study out of 104 targeted respondents. Majority of the respondents had good level of knowledge and attitude, but poor level of practice. There was a statistical association between knowledge level and attitude level ($P < 0.05$). There was also a statistical association between practice level with gender, working experience and location ($P < 0.05$). The most important challenges faced by community pharmacist regarding this topic was the low level of patient education level. Community pharmacists should be aware of the current level of their KAP on provision of drug information to older persons to improve the effectiveness of the treatment received by the elderly patients and improve their outcomes and quality of life.

Keywords: community pharmacist; older persons; drug information; knowledge; attitude; practice

1. Introduction

Globally, community pharmacists have an important role in providing education on medication to their clients. Pharmacist plays a major role in the health care professions aside from doctors, nurses and other allied health professionals on providing care and education to the patient and the community. Geriatric is a term used to describe the age of a person who is 60 years and above in Malaysia ^[1]. However, in many developed countries, the term older person is used to describe person with age 65 years old and above ^[2]. By 2020, the number of people aged 60 and above will exceed the number of children younger than 5 years old worldwide ^[3]. Many older persons need multiple medication for their medical conditions compared to other age group ^[4]. Provision of drug information is one of the major roles of community pharmacist to the community which can prevent