

Evaluation of a medication use review service in Swiss community pharmacies “Médicaments à Jour?": preliminary results from initial patients' consultations

Mathilde Escaith(1,2), Dr. Noelia Amador-Fernández(3), Dr. PD-MERC Jérôme Berger(1,2,4,5)

1. Center for Primary Care and Public Health (Unisanté), University of Lausanne, Switzerland

2. Centre for Research and Innovation in Clinical Pharmaceutical Sciences, Lausanne University Hospital and University of Lausanne

3. University of Technology Sydney, Graduate School of Health, 100 Broadway, Sydney New South Wales, 2007, Australia

4. Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Western Switzerland, University of Geneva, University of Lausanne

5. School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Geneva

Background

- “Médicament à Jour?” is the first Community Pharmacy (CP) service in Switzerland combining a type 2A intermediate medication review (prescribed and non prescribed drug) and drug sorting, that is not at the patient’s expense
- “Médicaments à Jour?” (MAJ?), was launched in March 2023, in coordination with local pharmaceutical authorities and professional association.
- Its main aim is detecting drug related problems (DRPs) related to patients’ medication management at home, including self-medication.

Objectives

For the preliminary results from the initial patients’ consultations through MAJ?:

- Identification and management of DRPs using the PharmDISC tool¹.
- Description of expired or ceased medications

Methods

A pre-post intervention study is being carried out in CPs in the French speaking canton of Switzerland, Vaud from March 2023 to June 2025.



Trained pharmacists from voluntary CPs will recruit at least 160 patients with the following inclusion criteria:

- Adults (18+)
- Who can physically go to the CP
- With at least 4 chronic drugs prescribed for at least 3 months

Trained volunteer pharmacist asked permission to conduct three structured medication use reviews at the CP at 6 month-interval each following the steps illustrated in Fig. 1

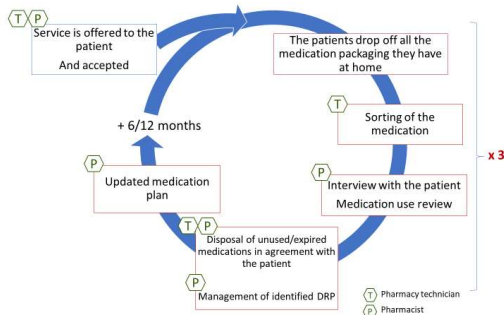


Fig1. «Médicaments à Jour?» consultation process

Results

- In May 2024, first initial consultations were completed for 29 patients (15 men and 14 women); 344 medications were brought to the consultation (19% n=67 were non prescribed drugs) and a mean of 12 ± 6 per patient.
- 39 DRPs were detected.
 - At least one DRP was detected for 48% (n=14) of the patients.
 - Adverse effects was the most prevalent reason documented by pharmacists (18%, n=7).

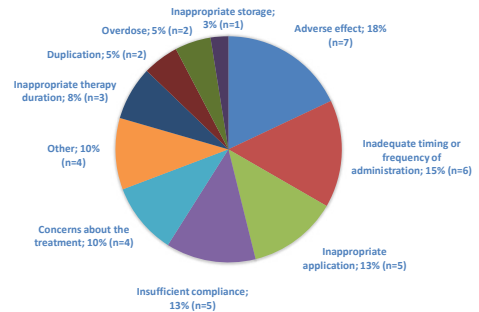


Fig2. Rate and Nature of DRPs detected

- 88 pharmaceutical interventions were required

- Intervention acceptance by the patient was high (59% n=23, being completely accepted by the patient and 10% n=4 being partially accepted)

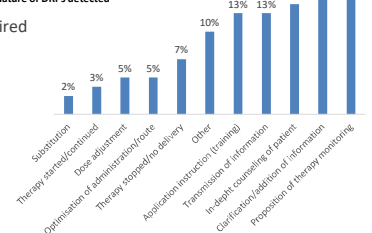


Fig3. Rate of patient per pharmaceutical intervention

- After drug sorting:

- 16%, n=54, were ceased prescriptions (81% n=44 were removed).
- 24%, n=82, were expired (patients agreed to dispose of 83% n=73 of them)
- Expired medication not disposed of by patients included drugs such as topical analgesics, benzodiazepine, salbutamol and eye drops

Conclusion

Preliminary results show that almost half of the patients encountered DRPs that often require several pharmaceutical interventions to be managed. Furthermore, expired and ceased medications represent a non-negligible percentage of household medication.

Fundings

The project was funded by Vaud’s canton’s local professional association (Société Vaudoise de Pharmacie) and by the local authorities (Département Général de Santé).

Topic area: Community pharmacy services; Medication review; Drug related problems; Switzerland

1. Marx, K.A., Brach, S., Hemberger, K.E. et al. Documentation of pharmaceutical care development of an intervention oriented classification system. *Int J Clin Pharm* 39, 354–363 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11096-015-0443-0>