

LEGISLATION FRAMEWORK (PHARMACY POLICIES) FOR PROVISION OF PHARMACEUTICAL CARE SERVICE IN BULGARIA

Yordanova S., Petkova V.

Medical University of Sofia,

Sofia, Bulgaria

Introduction. The development of the pharmacy profession forced the pharmacists to participate actively with other health professionals to optimize the drug therapy for patients, including reducing and avoiding predictable drug-related problems, developing individualized treatment plan or changes to the actual medication therapy.

Pharmacists have to accept and develop the patient-oriented pharmaceutical care as primary philosophy of their practice. The change of focus from manufacture and biological systems to promote the best therapy and patient safety will increase the level of responsibility and will lead necessarily to changes in philosophy, organization and functions of the pharmacy profession.

These changes require the definition of new standards of pharmacy practice, enhancing collaboration with other health care providers and the development of marketing strategy for implementation of pharmaceutical care services.

According to the World Health Organisation public health interventions, pharmaceutical care, rational medicine use and effective medicines supply management are key components of an accessible, sustainable, affordable and equitable health care system which ensures the efficacy, safety and quality of medicines. The pharmacy has an important role to play in the health sector reform process. To do so, however, the role of pharmacists needs to be redefined and reoriented.¹

Pharmaceutical care is that component of pharmacy practice which entails the direct interaction of the pharmacist with the patient for the purpose of caring for that patient's drug-related needs.² A practice for which the practitioner takes responsibility for a patient's drug therapy needs and is held accountable for this commitment.

According to van Mill et al. pharmaceutical care (Farmaceutische Patiëntenzorg, FPZ) is the structured intensified care of the pharmacist for an optimal pharmacotherapy in which the patient and his condition are the primary concern. The aim is to obtain an optimal Health Related Quality of Life.³

Achieving therapeutic goals requires collaboration between pharmacist and patient to assess its precise drug therapy. Pharmaceutical care will become a standard of performance only when all pharmacists accept their professional role as pharmaceutical care providers regarding the safe and effective drug therapy of each patient. Pharmaceutical care aims providing drug therapy responsibly, to achieve specific results that increase the quality of life of the patient.

Adoption and application of this concept in community pharmacy will ensure professional satisfaction of pharmacists and for patients - trust in the pharmacy services and reduction and elimination of drug-related problems.⁴

Aims. The aim of the study was to analyze the Bulgarian legislation framework with respect to the service Pharmaceutical care.

Research methodology. Materials are literature data based search on keywords in scientific databases: Scopus, Medline, Springer and others, regulatory documents on national level on the nature of the service Pharmaceutical care.

A documentary analysis of the availability in Bulgarian pharmacy policies and practice regarding the terminology “Pharmaceutical care”, “Medication management”, “Pharmaceutical Cognitive Services” and “Drug Use Review”; legally regulated Pharmaceutical care service; payment for receiving the Pharmaceutical care service and university level training in Pharmaceutical care was performed.

Results and discussion. The results show that in Bulgaria does not exist yet a clear legal framework for implementation and promotion of the Pharmaceutical care services in the pharmacy practice, but many of their components are included in existing regulatory documents.

According to the Bulgarian drug law, Art. 219. (1) the pharmacy is a medical facility in which to perform the following activities: storage, preparation, packaging, controlling, **consultation**, dispensing medicines with or without prescription of authorized in Bulgaria medicines, medical devices , dietary foods for special medical purposes and foods for infants and follow-on formulas and nutritional supplements, cosmetics and sanitary equipment.

According to the Law of Professional Association of Masters of Pharmacy, 2006 the pharmacists are required to observe Good pharmacy practice (GPP), and it is written that are required to develop standards of Pharmaceutical care services.

According to the Code of Professional Ethics for masters of pharmacy: Master of Pharmacy puts patient care at the center of professional practice, whereas only their health and medical needs and those defined by health science.

These documents can serve as a good basis for development and implementation of a service or a program that corresponds to or covering the overall the Pharmaceutical care concept.

Terminology	Availability
Pharmaceutical care services	●
Medication management	-
Cognitive pharmaceutical services	-
Drug/Medicines use review	-
Legally regulated pharmaceutical care services	●
Patient's payment for this service	-
Financial compensation for the pharmacist	-
University education	●

Table1. Availability of terminology "Pharmaceutical Care", "Medication management", "Cognitive pharmaceutical services" and "Drug/Medicines use review", available legal basis, patient's payment for this service, the availability of

financial compensation for the pharmacist, and the presence of pharmaceutical care education.

Conclusions. The literature review and the review of various national guidelines and regulatory documents show that the pharmaceutical care concept has no sufficient legislative support in the country. Professional regulatory documents such as the Code of Ethics and rules of the Good pharmacy practice are closely related and reflect more international views on this issue until regulations are more conservative and do not support the view that the need to financial compensation for the pharmacist.

-
1. Wledenmayer K, Summers RS, Mackie CA, et al. Developing pharmacy practice: a focus on patient care. Handbook, 2006 ed. Geneva (Switzerland): World Health Organization and International Pharmaceutical Federation; 2006. Отворен сайт: http://www.who.int/medicines/publications/WHO_PSM_PAR_2006.5.pdf. (26 април, 2007).
 2. Strand LM, Cipolle RJ, Morley PC. Pharmaceutical Care: an introduction. Kalamzoo, MI: Upjohn Company 1992.
 3. Van Mil JWF, Tromp TFJ, de Jong-van den Berg LTW. Pharmaceutical Care de zorg van de apotheker. 1993;43:1243-1247.
 4. CD Hepler, LM Strand. Opportunities and responsibilities in pharmaceutical care. Am J Hosp Pharm. 1990 Mar;47(3):533-543.