

Use of General Level Framework to Establish Pharmacists' Compliance with Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee's Guiding Principles to Achieve Continuity in Medication Management¹

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AIM

To determine the frequency with which each of the Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee's Guiding Principles to Achieve Continuity in Medication Management (APAC CoMM) were undertaken for patients in Queensland public hospitals.

BACKGROUND

The General Level Framework (GLF) for Pharmaceutical Review is used to evaluate and feedback on pharmacists' clinical performance and identifies key areas for individuals' continuing professional development. It is based on a validated United Kingdom model², which was mapped against Australian practice standards and guidelines, including the APAC CoMM Principles.

METHOD

Baseline GLFs have been undertaken in 202 pharmacists in 26 hospitals. Pharmacists were evaluated and rated according to the frequency with which each activity was observed, as always (defined as 85-100% of the time), usually, sometimes, or never. Twenty nine of the 98 individual activities described in the GLF are associated with APAC Guiding Principles numbers 4 to 9. Ratings for these activities provided a measure of pharmacists' adherence with the APAC CoMM Principles. Adherence to principles 1, 2, 3 and 10 could not be evaluated using GLF results.

RESULTS

Results indicated that pharmacists do not consistently undertake activities related to the APAC CoMM Principles. Thirty six percent of pharmacists were classified as always taking a comprehensive medication history. Twelve percent always documented a medication action plan. Information regarding ongoing supply of medication was always provided by 39% and a discharge medication record always provided by 67%. Individual plans were agreed with pharmacists to assist in resolving identified gaps in performance.

CONCLUSION

GLF evaluations demonstrated that pharmacists are performing key activities outlined in the APAC CoMM Principles to a varying extent. Repeat GLFs will assist in demonstrating ongoing compliance with the principles.

(WORD COUNT = 300)

REFERENCES

1. Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council. Guiding Principles to Achieve Continuity in Medication Management. Canberra: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing; 2005
2. Competency Development and Education Group. General Level Framework – A Framework for Pharmacist Development in General Practice, Second Edition; 2007. Available from <http://www.codeg.org/fileadmin/codeg/pdf/qlf/GLF_October_2007_Edition.pdf>. Accessed 22 September 2008.

GLF results to assess APAC compliance