

Pharmacy preparedness in disaster management in pediatric emergency department (PED)

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Introduction:

A pharmacist plays a crucial role in disaster management in (PED) especially during natural disasters. Pharmacist role in disaster management is not just limited to dispensing medication, ensuring the continuity of drug therapy, identifying drug interactions, managing drug shortages, and preventing prescription errors. Pharmacists are uniquely positioned during disasters to provide healthcare continuity and medication management to affected communities. Floods are one of the natural disasters occurring worldwide which have a massive range of health impacts. In addition to immediate dangers such as drowning, floods can increase the transmission of some waterborne diseases i.e. cholera, malaria, gastroenteritis which can be easily treated with oral rehydration salts, antimalarial, antibiotics and IV drips if needed.

Objective:

This study was aimed at providing an overview of pharmacists' roles in disasters and formulating a definition of roles and tasks regarding the medication safety and to calculate the burden of diseases mainly water borne diseases, manage medication shortage with top four medicine consumed, medication education to patients, total number of patients received with top first three diagnosis, with emergency preparedness and response plan".

Methodology:

A quantitative analysis was used to gather data from EMR (Electronic medical record). The study was conducted in one of the Pediatric Emergency department of tertiary care hospital, in Sindh (Pakistan) supported by Child Life foundation for the month of August and September 2022 in which we have covered the percentage of total number of patients received, total number of water borne diseases with presenting complaints of fever, loose stool, vomiting, abdominal pain. We have analyzed the stock position of medicine i.e. R/L (ringer lactate) 500ml drip, normal saline 100ml drip, Inj. Ciprofloxacin, Inj. Ondansetron, ORS consumption with respect to total number of patients received. Also, we have calculated the total number of patients received with top first three diagnosis i.e Cholera, gastroenteritis, typhoid. RESULT: Out of 14,827 patients in the month of August'22, the patients received with the water borne diseases were 7200 and out of 18,230 patients in the month of September'22, the patients received with the water borne diseases were 5200. In the month of August'22, we have found that the out of 5039 patients the patients received with the cholera were 50%, bacterial gastroenteritis were 33%, 17% of typhoid. Out of 5039 patients in the month of September'22, the patients received with the cholera were 55.6%, bacterial gastroenteritis were 26.2%, 18.2% of typhoid.

Conclusion:

It is concluded that the maximum number of patients are 51.4% with presenting complaints of fever, loose stool and vomiting in the month of Aug'22 and the maximum number of patients are 34.8% with presenting complaints of fever, loose stool and vomiting in the month of Sep'22. Maximum diagnosis was cholera with 50% in Aug'22 & in Sept'22 were 55.6%. Maximum normal saline drips were consumed on patients 44.8% in the month of Aug'22 & in Sept'22 were 39.7%. Maximum normal saline drips were consumed with number of packs 8684 in the month of Aug'22 & in Sept'22 were 12308.