The provision of drug information regarding medications/drugs and other pharmaceuticals is one of the fundamental professional responsibilities of all pharmacists.

Drug Information (DI) is an unbiased, accurate, well referred, critically evaluated up to date information to on any aspect of drug use.

Drug information may be patient specific, academic (for educational purposes), or population based (to aid in the decision-making process for evaluating medication use for groups of patients).

Drug information services: It is those services which cover the activities of specially trained individual to provide drug information on the safe and effective use of therapeutic and diagnostic. pharmaceuticals in response to patient-oriented drug problems that are received from health care professionals.

Drug Information Center (DIC) is to provide a system for the organization and dissemination of drug information.

The goal of providing carefully evaluated, evidence-based recommendations to support specific medication-use practices is to enhance the quality of patient care, improve patient outcomes, and ensure the prudent use of resources.

Poison Information Center answers the questions concerning the prevention and treatment of acute poisoning and provides the latest poisons information to the public and toxicology advice to healthcare professionals on the management of poisoned and envenomed patients.

RIPER-PDIC

The RIPER-Poison and Drug Information Center provides service to assist doctors and healthcare professionals in the management of poisoning and dissemination of drug information.

Activities:

- 1. Providing DI to patients, caregivers, and health care professionals.
- 2. Creating and maintaining currency of a variety of print and online educational resources for patients (e.g., tip sheets, pamphlets) and health care professionals (e.g., in-service documents, newsletters) on topics such as optimal medication use, general health, or select clinical questions.
- 3. Educating health care professionals on safe and effective medication-use policies and processes, including development of resources communicate this information.
- 4. Leading or participating in continuing education services for health care professionals.
- 5. Precepting and educating pharmacy students and residents.
- 6. Participating in quality improvement research projects and drug cost analyses.
- 7. Contributing to the biomedical literature and providing peer review for other contributors.

Functions:

The primary function of a drug information centre is to respond to enquiries Information must be dependable, timely, and of the highest possible standard therapeutic drug use.

Drug Evaluation: Critically assessing the medical literature, and information from industry and media sources and published research includes an interpretation of the results in terms of relevance to local practice for the Assessment of therapeutic drugs.

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Therapeutic Advice: Includes factors such as efficacy, optimum dosage, interactions, adverse effects, mode of administration, effects of other disease states, and strategies to promote adherence in chronic conditions and Patient-related drug information.

Pharmaceutical Advice: Relate to pharmaceutical preparations generally and include issues of availability, formulation, cost, storage and stability.

Education and Training: Educational activities are important to support the quality use of drugs. Providing information to health professionals and the public is part of continuing health education. A drug information centre can also support national and regional authorities responsible for drug use programs. Training graduate and undergraduate students is an important aspect of overall clinical training.

Dissemination of Information: Disseminate information in the form of drug monographs, bulletins and websites.

Research: Involved in research activities including pharmacoepidemiology, e.g., drug utilisation studies and pharmacovigilance.

Ancillary activities: Pharmacovigilance, Toxicology,

- Answering health care professionals' questions
 - Rational Drug use: 5 R's Right drug, Right dose, Right dosage form, Right route, Right patient)
 - Drug Interactions
 - Availability / Substitute
 - Drug Identification
 - Formulary Decision
 - Drug Identification
- Pharmacy and Therapeutic committee (P&T)
- Drug Use Review (DUE)/ Evaluation
- Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting (ADR Program)
- Investigational Drug Program
- Education and Training
- Publications (Newsletter, Bulletins, Journal, Column)
- Community Services

The Drug Information Center routinely responds to requests regarding:

- Appropriate therapy for specific patients
- Adverse reactions to drugs
- Efficacy of drugs
- Drug interactions
- Intravenous additive incompatibilities
- Biopharmaceutic and pharmacokinetic parameters of drugs
- Dosing in renal failure
- Appropriate therapy for a disease state
- Identification of foreign drugs
- Information on investigational Agents
- Information on new drugs

- Identification of unknown capsules and tablets
- The drug information centre does not answer medical legal questions

Availability:

The RIPER-PDIC is a division of the Department of Pharmacy Practice Services, located beside to Central Pharmacy in the Rural Development Trust (RDT) Hospital, Bathalapalli, Anantapur.

Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Telephone number: 08559-242307

Non-emergency weekend and evening requests may be left on voice mail Urgent inquiries, after hours and on weekends, may be made to the pharmacy clinical specialist on call at 9963078207

Resources:

Current pharmacy and medical textbooks

Specialty references

Computer database – Medicines complete, Micromedex, Clinical Pharmacology

Medical and pharmacy journals

PDIC Staff: Constituted by Clinical pharmacists trained in drug information, Pharmacy residents/interns and students

Dr. G. Narayana. M.Pharm, Ph.D, Associate Professor, Head, Dept. of Pharmacy Practice, RIPER

Dr.. Mohanraj Rathinavelu. Pharm. D, Associate Professor, Division of Pharmacy Practice, RIPER

Dr. S.M.G. Ishrar. Pharm. D, Assistant Professor, Division of Pharmacy Practice, RIPER/RDT

Dr. K. Praveen Kumar. Director, RDT Hospital, Bathalapalli

Dr. Hari Hara Nadha Sarma. Medical Superintendent, RDT Hospital, Bathalapalli

Pharmacy Interns and Pharmacy Students.

Staff Functions:

- Answering drug related questions from healthcare professionals and members of the lay public.
- Preparing the agenda and clinical background information for the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee meetings.
- Updating and posting The Methodist Hospital Formulary on the Intranet.
- Developing criteria for medication use evaluations; helping conduct these evaluations and preparing recommendations to the medical staff based on the results of the evaluations.
- Assisting in conducting research and evaluating outcomes of medication usage.

Confidentiality: All the records in the PDIC are confidential. Telephone calls are stored electronically, for quality assurance and training purpose.

Systematic Approach to Answer the Question: Modified Systematic Approach (1987)

Step 1. Secure demographics of requestor
Step II. Obtain background information
Step III. Determine and categorize ultimate question
Step IV. Develop strategy and conduct search
Step V. Perform evaluation, analysis, and synthesis
Step VI. Formulate and provide response
Step VII. Conduct follow-up and documentation

Contact Information:

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