

Assignment- Pharma role in Healthcare
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Healthcare suffers from prescription drug abuse and misuse, which ruin the triple aim.

Introduction

Drugs are prescribed for treating conditions and staying healthy, but patients also use them in different ways. Every drug has its shortcomings and has its side effects. Every dose of the drug is specific to the age, symptoms, health issues and comorbidities of the patient. Physicians prescribe medicine electronically or in writing and they receive it from the pharmacy or through online delivery, but no one verifies the patient's compliance. A patient might save or overdose on drugs or share them with another person. Drug abuse and misuse are common among young adults and elderly patients, respectively.

Causes

Physicians follow up for health check-up appointments and the pharmacies call for refills or automatic online delivery. By saving the medicines, the patient might not get well and goes for a Doctors shopping or Hospitals Tour and takes the prescription from different physicians, especially this happens with pain problems. Even over the counter medications are also useful for them to get abused. Even though the insurance does not cover the same medicine for two prescriptions, they end up paying out-of-pocket. Ultimately, there are more drugs in access to the patients than they need. Drug misuse in elderly patients brings up new health issues associated with drugs.

Impact

AROUND ONE IN SIX TEENAGERS has used prescription drugs to get high. The vast majority of teens who abuse pain relievers obtain them from family and friends. Just 3 per cent of parents admit to giving the child medication that was not prescribed for them. But 22 per cent of teens say they were given prescription drugs they were not supposed to have. (published by The Partnership for Drugfree org. MedicineAbuseProject.org).

These practices shoot the healthcare cost. The patients remain the patients and cultivate new patients around them. Drug abuse can lead to new health and psychological conditions, which again contributes to increasing health issues, spending in pharma and healthcare. The non-compliance of the patient and misuse of it affects the providers and hospital performance in a positive (getting more patients) and negative (reduced performance, affecting VBP) way and negatively affects the patient's health.

Recommendations

The disrupted drug use could be addressed by interconnected pharmacies regardless of whether they are chains, individual pharmacies, or online pharmacies. Pharmacist checks with the patient about compliance. Providers keep a track of the patient's health. Following up with patients about medication compliance and providing drug supplies for two weeks instead of a month, three months, or six months. Parents, caregivers, or guardians should have a check-up on the drugs taken by the patient. Educating young adults about the consequences of drug-related health issues and motivating them towards a healthy lifestyle through mandatory programs.

Pharmacies, providers, patients, and caregivers all have to participate in order to see the results, this involves more than one hand.

References

Drug abuse statistics: <https://drugabusestatistics.org/prescription-drug-abuse-statistics/>

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SAMHSA: <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/hpr-resources/rise-prescription-drug-misuse-abuse-impacting-teens>

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