

## **Abstract**

### **Pharmaceutical care for diabetic patients in the field of podiatry**

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**Introduction and objective:** Diabetic foot syndrome (DFS) is one of the most common chronic complications of diabetes mellitus (DM), which significantly reduces the quality of life of patients. Emphasis on the prevention of DFU development is essential to care of diabetic patients, and pharmacists can play an important role in achieving this goal, especially in the education of regime measures and glycemic self-monitoring. The aim of this work is to analyze the attitudes of pharmacists in the Czech Republic to the provision of pharmaceutical care for diabetic patients in the field of podiatry.

**Methods:** The data were collected by a questionnaire survey from September 2021 to November 2021. The electronic anonymous questionnaire was distributed by e-mail to members of 4 District Pharmacists' Associations (OSL Kurná Hora, OSL Jičín, OSL Beroun, OSL Mělník) and to members of the closed group Mladí lékárníci via the social network Facebook. The questionnaire consisted of 23 questions focusing on the pharmacist confidence in providing professional information to the diabetic patients, on complication of diabetics, on participation in DM screening and on education of diabetic patients. The results were processed using descriptive statistics and some data were further analyzed using basic parametric and non-parametric tests.

**Results:** 28 OSL members out of 244 respondents (11,8 %) and 102 members of the group Mladí lékárníci out of 3875 respondents (2,6 %) answered the questionnaire. After the elimination of incomplete questionnaires, 120 questionnaires were included in the final evaluation. The mean age of all respondents, especially female (80,0 %), working in a public „street“ pharmacy (39,2 %), was 34,2 years (SD = ± 8,7). Most respondents (71,7 %) are in contact with diabetic patients with a reported frequency several times a day. One respondent reporting practically no contact with a diabetic patient was excluded from further evaluation. Respondents are the most confident in providing information in the field of pharmacotherapy (confident or rather confident 84,0 %), on the contrary, they are the least confident in the education of glycemic self-monitoring (rather uncertain or uncertain 28,6 %). About 13,4 % of respondents feel

rather uncertain about foot care regime measures. Most respondents (87,4 %) would like to be further educated in the topic of DFS. There was no statistically significant difference between the two groups of respondents (OSL vs. Mladí lékárníci) in the evaluation of attitudes to the provision of pharmaceutical care in the field of podiatry.

**Conclusion:** The majority of addressed pharmacists confirmed the importance in education of diabetic patients in terms of prevention of diabetic foot syndrome (94,1 %) and their role in this education (95,8 %).

**Keywords:** diabetes mellitus, diabetic foot, pharmaceutical care