

ABSTRACT

Introduction to the problem: Pharmacotherapy is a very complex and specific topic. Many of healthcare professionals, including nurses, are involved in pharmacotherapy management. Although this field is ensured by various legal standards, some competences of nurses are not clearly defined. The primary aim of this research was to analyse the current role of the nurse in pharmacotherapy out of a physician's perspective.

Methodology: The data as a part of the multicentric project was collected in the form of semi-structured in-depth interviews with selected physicians also called key-informants. The obtained data were analysed by open coding followed by categorisation. Finally, SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis was used to assess the opportunities and threats, which are related to determination of the ideal role of the nurse in drug administration.

Results: Current practice shows that nurses are performing activities beyond their competences. Therefore, I consider legislative changes in this area appropriate. At many departments is not cooperation with the clinical pharmacist well established, moreover in some cases doctors are not interested in it. In contrast, the literature also the workplaces, where the clinical pharmacist is part of the team reports many benefits. Namely, improving of pharmacotherapy management and reduction of medication errors. SWOT analysis shows that the nurse education, legislation, and staff shortage is main weakness of the current system and a future threat. On the other hand, effort to increase nurse's competences, adjusting legislation and education can be identified as an opportunity to increase the prestige of the profession.

Conclusion and recommendations: My recommendations would include extending of my investigation with quantitative research and different approach in the individual fields of medicine, e.g. intensive care or home care.

Keywords: role of the nurse, competences, pharmacotherapy, teamwork, physicians