

Title: The role of community pharmacists in the primary health care team work

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Abstract:

Lack of the general practitioners in the rural regions is actual issue for some countries. Sometimes the paradox situation occurs when the community pharmacy of branch pharmacy is located in the rural, but pharmacist doesn't have the rights to manage the patient treatment. The pharmacist often is an alone full-time health professional in concrete rural district, but can't provide prescription medicines to chronic diseases patients or in emergency situation without prescription of general practitioner. The purpose of this research is to investigate the experience of the United Kingdom in implementation of supplementary prescribing for pharmacists and to identify other possibilities to improve the accessibility of medicines in rural regions. The results of the research create the following statements:- the supplementary prescribing for pharmacists is appropriate decision for solving partly the problems of the accessibility of the primary health care in rural areas;- the pharmacists should have additional training to fulfil the supplementary prescribers functions;- questionable issue is the situation in which the pharmacist is prescriber and supplier at the same time;- taking into account low profitability of the rural pharmacies, the capitation system implementation with additional payment for quality criteria is discussible. In opinion of the author the supplementary prescribing rights for pharmacists is the great opportunity for strengthening of the role of community pharmacists in the primary health care team work and improving the treatment management process for chronic diseases patients.