

PHARMACEUTICAL CARE: FROM GUIDELINES TO PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

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The National Curriculum Guidelines for the Undergraduate Pharmacy Course, approved by the Ministry of Education in 2017, recommend that the training of pharmacists be generalist, guided by ethical and scientific principles, centered on pharmaceuticals, medications and pharmaceutical assistance. In addition, they propose that training be integrated with clinical and toxicological analyzes, cosmetics and food. They also guide the graduates to be able to act effectively for the health care of the individual, the family and the community. Therefore, it provides that half of the course's workload is devoted to training skills in the health care axis.

In this sense, Pharmaceutical Care emerges as a priority and essential area for the training of these professionals. Pharmaceutical Care is understood as a model of practice that underlies the performance of clinical services provided by pharmacists. It is consolidated through the dispensing of medications, pharmacotherapeutic follow-up, health screening, health education, management of self-limited health problems, therapeutic monitoring, medication reconciliation, review of pharmacotherapy and health condition management. The literature is vast with evidence on the effectiveness of these services in the prevention, promotion and recovery of health.

Despite this, the pandemic experienced by the world population has given more prominence to Pharmaceutical Care due to its potential to guide and rationalize the use of medicines, and to avoid problems arising from their consumption. According to the World Health Organization, from the beginning of the pandemic until the first three days of December 2020, the date that marks the beginning of the VII International Symposium on Pharmaceutical Care, Covid-19 reached about 64 million individuals and was the cause of death of

nearly 1.5 million people worldwide. The increase in medication consumption, including self-medication, to prevent Covid-19 and to treat the signs and symptoms that the disease causes was a phenomenon observed in developed and emerging countries in the last twelve months. This also increased the risk of drug-related morbidity and mortality mainly due to the fact that there is no robust evidence of the effectiveness and safety of these therapeutic options in the management of Covid-19. Thus, the consolidation of Pharmaceutical Care in health equipment and the active participation of the pharmacist in health care becomes a public need.

In this scenario, the Federal University of Alfenas (UNIFAL-MG), concerned with training qualified professionals, updated and prepared for the job market, held the VII International Symposium on Pharmaceutical Care. He combined his faculty with renowned researchers from Brazil, Portugal, Paraguay and other countries, providing exchanges of experience between undergraduate, graduate and professional students. The event had the collaboration of 40 ad hoc reviewers and received 115 paper submissions, of which 106 were approved for presentation in a virtual exhibition. The thematic areas that received the most summaries were: pharmacotherapeutic follow-up and drug therapy management (32.1%); topics of interest in public health (19.8%); pharmacoepidemiology, pharmacovigilance and patient safety (17.0%); rational use of medicines (12.3%) and pharmaceutical guidance (7.5%). Eight papers referred to the Covid-19 pandemic. Five abstracts were selected for oral presentation and five for honorable mention. It is expected that the dissemination of these works will contribute even more to the consolidation of Pharmaceutical Care and to the inclusion of clinical services in the professional practice of pharmacists.