

1. Introduction

Hospital pharmacy is an independent specialized field which plays an irreplaceable role in the provision of complex pharmacy care, especially for hospital inpatient facilities. A hospital pharmacy is an inseparable part of such facilities. The conception of the field of hospital pharmacy aims to define the role of hospital pharmacy in the coming years, in the context of the development of global and mainly European hospital pharmacy, and to suggest a solution leading to the defined goal. The goal of the changes is the standardization of hospital pharmacy care on a high level, based on the fusion of latest findings in pharmacy and medicine with public order, ethical principles and economic potentials of the health care system.

2. Definition and Content of the Field

Pharmacy care in hospital pharmacies focuses on a continuous and complex optimization and individualization of pharmacotherapy and use of health aids. Optimization means the enhancement of quality and availability of the provided care while available sources are used rationally.

Hospital pharmacy provides pharmacy care to:

- inpatients
- patients of outpatient clinics
- patients being released from health care facilities
- ambulatory patients
- patients in the system of home care

Its specialized care is also available to the inhabitants, the health care facilities it is a part of and other health care and non health care entities.

Hospital pharmacy deals with:

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- procuring and dispensing of drugs and health aids
- drug compounding
- drug control and recording
- dispensing and compounding of laboratory chemicals and laboratory diagnostics
- drug policy
- drug handling safety.

Drug compounding means compounding of all dosage forms, including those technologically demanding,

- individualized sterile pharmaceuticals with the content of cytotoxics, antibiotics, analgesic anodyne and others for parenteral application, preparations for gene therapy
 - pharmaceuticals prepared in batches in compliance with valid regulations
 - other highly individualized pharmaceuticals specifically demanded for rational pharmacotherapy.

A hospital pharmacy provides clinically oriented care on a level meeting the needs of the hospital, in direct cooperation with other experts on a multidisciplinary clinical team (a doctor of medicine, a pharmacist, a nurse, a psychologist, etc.). This activity is conducted by means of active participation of the hospital pharmacist in the process of pharmacotherapy optimization:

- in the nutrition team, with relation to the preparation of parenteral and enteral nutrition mixtures
- in the oncologic team, with relation to the centralized compounding of cytotoxics
- in the advanced therapy team, with relation to the compounding of pharmaceuticals for gene therapy
 - during monitoring and assessing the effectiveness and quality of pharmacotherapy and its use in the hospital drug policy
 - in committees dealing with drug related issues (drug, antibiotic, nutrition, ethical, and economic committees, a committee for public orders, a committee for health aids)
 - by providing pharmaceutical services for drug studies
 - by collecting pharmacoepidemiological data and their processing into pharmaco-economic outputs
 - during therapeutic monitoring of drugs in body fluids and by interpreting the data in cooperation with clinic-pharmacologic or clinic-biochemical workplaces
 - during the evaluation of individual prescription of inpatients with the outputs being a single-dose, or a multi-dose system of individual drug dispensing
 - by providing clinical-pharmaceutical care to inpatients and outpatients

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- in the team for implementation and enforcement of the quality system
- in expert groups for the creation and implementation of standards of hospital pharmaceutical care.

An inseparable part of the care is providing information services to patients and health care workers, including their education.

Hospital pharmacy is active in

- pregraduate preparation of students of faculties of pharmacy (or medicine) and students of further education schools
- postgraduate preparation of health care workers, especially pharmacists and pharmaceutical assistants
- research projects conducted independently or in cooperation with scientific, university and health care institutions.

The education and training activities are provided by workplaces included in the system of accredited health care workplaces.

3. Conditions Necessary for the Goal Achievement

To ensure proper working of hospital pharmacy, it is necessary to define the terms of hospital pharmacy and hospital pharmacist within the newly created legislation on health care, the system of health care facilities, health care workers and their education.

It is necessary to establish the minimum material, technical and personnel conditions of hospital pharmacy equipment with respect to the range of pharmaceutical care provided. The range of the care has to be specified on the basis of assessable criteria, such as the number and profile of beds in the facility, the number and profile of health care workers, the number and character of conducted clinical evaluations, the number of specialized centres.

4.□□□ **Employees and Their Qualifications**

A qualification prerequisite for a head of hospital pharmacy is the acquired specialization in the field of hospital pharmacy. The heads of individual pharmacy departments are required to be specialized in the appropriate fields (hospital pharmacy, community pharmacy, clinical pharmacy, pharmaceutical technology, pharmaceutical analysis) or a higher specialization appropriate to the performed job, such as a certified course on oncology pharmacy, nutritional support. It is necessary to retain the independent basic specialization field of hospital pharmacy and to provide conditions suitable for the possible education in the field. The prerequisite of pharmacy technicians is post-secondary and further education in the field related to the performed job and the introduction of the specialization in hospital pharmacy.

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