



Overview of Adverse Drug Reactions: Classification, Reporting, Prevention, and Role of Pharmacist

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ABSTRACT

Adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in healthcare. An ADR occurs when healthcare service is provided and a safety issue arises whenever therapeutic choices have to be made. Therefore, the classification, identification, assessment, reporting, prevention (prophylactically), and pharmacological and non-pharmacological management of an ADR has become an important aspect of drug therapy. In addition, establishing drug safety, pharmacovigilance, drug utilization and evaluation, and surveillance programs helps fulfill key elements of ADR reporting. Furthermore, the skilled services of clinical and community pharmacists, are essential in the development and execution of ADR reporting programs in their practice along with pharmacists' role in educating and promoting awareness of ADR to the public can save lives. This review article briefly summarizes the key elements of correctly defining, classifying (type), and reporting elements of an ADR, and preventive strategies in managing an ADR. Further, it summarizes the role of a pharmacist in participating in ADR surveillance programs, monitoring, identifying, and reporting an ADR that can help determine its management and future therapeutic choices.

Keywords: ADR, ADR Reporting, Adverse drug reactions, DoTs, Pharmacovigilance, PvPI, Vigiflow, Yellow card scheme.

INTRODUCTION

An adverse drug reaction (ADR) can be defined as "A noticeably harmful or unpleasant reaction resulting from an intervention related to the use of the medicinal product".¹ The definition states that an adverse effect usually predicts hazard from future administration, warrants prevention, specifies a treatment approach, alters the dosage regimen, or withdraws the administration of the drug product.² Since 2012, the definition has expanded to include not only the authorized use of a medicinal product in normal dosages but also the reactions that may arise from medication errors, drug calculation and administration mistakes, abuse, or misuse as well as suspected reactions to unlicensed or off-label medications.³

Researching ADRs in terms of early detection and prevention as well as encouraging medical professionals to report ADRs are essential to reducing the severity of undesired, unexpected, and harmful effects and the cost of treatment and rehospitalization due to a potential ADR⁴. A World Health Organization (WHO) report states that about 60% of ADRs can be avoided by rationalizing drug selection and prescribing practices.^{3,4} Widespread polypharmacy has resulted from the rising number of patients with multimorbidity and the complexity of therapeutic agents, which could lead to an increase in potential drug-drug interactions (pDDIs), particularly in the elderly. Notably, DDIs, inappropriate dosage, and inadequate monitoring are the most common factors influencing the preventability of ADRs.²⁻⁴ Indeed, patient demographics (gender and age) and ADR characteristics

(drug type, ADR type, system organ category, outcome, management, de-challenge/re-challenge, and reporter status) have been used to categorize the ADRs.²⁻⁵

1. CLASSIFICATION OF ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS

1A) ABCDE Classification: An ADR is frequently classified as a 'type A' and 'type B' reaction but later other classes have also been added.¹

a) Type A (Augmented) reactions: These are due to the exaggeration of normal pharmacological effects of the drug at a usual therapeutic dose and are usually dose-dependent. These effects occur frequently, are predictable, and are associated with low mortality rates.¹ Examples include (1) Opioids induce respiratory depression⁶ or warfarin bleeding⁷, (2) drug-induced liver damage is a well-known kind of type A reaction that may be caused by an overdose of acetaminophen⁸, (3) phototoxicity and yellowing of teeth due to tetracycline exposure⁹, nephrotoxicity caused by aminoglycosides¹⁰, and (4) digestive tract effects, such as erosive gastritis, peptic ulcer disease, bleeding ulcers secondary to NSAID therapy.¹¹ Type A reactions also include those that are not directly related to the desired pharmacological action of the drug, such as dry mouth that is associated with tricyclic antidepressants.¹²

b) Type B (Bizarre) reactions: These are new reactions that are not anticipated from the direct pharmacological outcomes of the drug. These are much less frequent, not unusual, and might consequently be found for the first time after a drug has been administered for its preferred use. Examples include (1) hypersensitivity reactions like



anaphylaxis to beta-lactam antibiotics, such as penicillins and cephalosporins¹³, (2) idiosyncratic reactions like malignant hyperthermia with anaesthetics¹⁴, (3) intolerance reactions or low tolerance threshold to drugs (beta-lactams, macrolide, tetracyclines, anti-HIV drugs, and anticancer antibiotics and tyrosine kinase inhibitors)¹⁵, (4) idiosyncratic reactions, such as a drug-induced liver injury due to carbamazepine, felbamate, isoniazid, infliximab¹⁶, (5) immune-mediated (allergic) reactions due to penicillins, fluoroquinolones, vancomycin, curare mimetics^{17,18}, (6) chloramphenicol-induced aplastic anaemia¹⁹, and (7) rifampicin- and isoniazid-induced hepatitis^{16,20}.

c) Type C (Continuing) reactions: These ADRs persist for a prolonged time after their incidence. Examples include (1) the use of bisphosphonates resulting in osteonecrosis of the jaw²¹ and (2) hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal axis suppression by corticosteroids²².

d) Type D (Delayed) reactions: These ADRs remarkably appear slowly a while after the usage of the drug. Additionally, the timing of those can also make them too hard to detect. Examples include (1) leucopenia could arise up to 6 weeks after a dose of lomustine²³, (2) tardive dyskinesia, a late form of extrapyramidal side effect of first-generation antipsychotic agents²⁴, (3) teratogenesis due to typical antiepileptics (fetal hydantoin syndrome)²⁵, and (4) carcinogenesis due to immunosuppressants²⁶.

e) Type E (End-of-use) reactions: These are due to the sudden withdrawal of a drug. Examples include (1) insomnia, tension, and perceptual disturbances following the withdrawal of benzodiazepines²⁷, (2) myocardial ischemia after β -blocker discontinuation²⁸, and (3) withdrawal syndrome with opiates or benzodiazepines^{27,29}.

f) Type F (Failure of therapy) reactions: These ADRs are due to unexpected failure of therapy, where a drug undesirably increases or decreases in efficacy. Examples include (1) the decreased clearance of a drug by dialysis and plasmapheresis^{30,31}, (2) the decreased efficacy of a drug because of drug interactions altering metabolism^{32,33}, (3) the effects of critical illness on protein binding and elimination^{34,35}, and (4) the decreased effect of antibiotics (Meropenem, Linezolid, and Colistin, penicillin, cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones, macrolides) due to resistance³⁶⁻³⁸.

1B) DoTS (Dose, Timing, Susceptibility) Classification: This three-dimensional classification system is based on essential considerations of dose-associated, time-associated, and patient susceptibility factors.³⁹

a) Dose relatedness: The risk and severity of these ADRs are directly related to the administered drug(s), its pharmacological action and class, and the dose(s) administered. Examples include (1) immunogenic response to hepatitis B vaccine⁴⁰, (2) type IV hypersensitivity skin reactions, such as allergic contact dermatitis, Stevens–Johnson Syndrome (SJS), toxic

epidermal necrolysis (TEN))^{41,42}, and (3) cephalosporins desensitization by the use of increasing doses of drug (antigen)⁴³.

b) Time relatedness: These types of ADRs occur either time-independent or depend on the timing of the first and multiple doses of the drug. **(I) Time-independent reactions** include (1) digoxin toxicity when the patient's renal function worsens⁴⁴ and (2) digoxin toxicity in association with potassium depletion⁴⁵. **(II) Time-dependent reactions** are divided into six subtypes, viz., rapid, first dose, early, intermediate, late, and delayed. Examples of **(i) rapid ADRs** include red man syndrome with vancomycin (vancomycin flushing reaction)⁴⁶, **(ii) first dose ADRs** include (1) hypotension after the first dose of an angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor⁴⁷, (2) anaphylaxis to penicillins^{13,17}, and **(iii) early reaction ADRs** include nitrates-induced headache⁴⁸. The ADRs of **(iv) intermediate reaction** include (1) thrombocytopenia due to quinine, quinidine, rifampicin, abciximab, carbamazepine, ceftriaxone, eptifibatid, suramin, heparin, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, ibuprofen, mirtazapine, oxaliplatin, penicillin, tirofiban, and vancomycin⁴⁹, (2) interstitial nephritis with penicillins⁵⁰, (3) cutaneous hypersensitivity (urticaria and angioedema) to antihistamines⁵¹, and (4) ampicillin/amoxicillin pseudo allergic rash^{13,17,52}. The ADRs of **(v) late reactions** include (1) tardive dyskinesia with first-generation antipsychotics (dopamine receptor antagonists)²⁴ (2) opiate and benzodiazepine withdrawal syndromes^{27,29}, (3) hypertension after withdrawal of clonidine or methyl dopa^{53,54}, and (4) acute myocardial infarction after withdrawal of beta-blockers²⁸. The ADRs of **(vi) delayed reactions** include (1) carcinogenesis (vaginal adenocarcinoma in women who were exposed to diethylstilbestrol in utero⁵⁵, (2) teratogenesis, such as phocomelia due to thalidomide⁵⁶.

c) Patient susceptibility factors: Various factors, such as age, gender, altered physiology, genetic, and exogenous origin make patients susceptible to incidence and increased severity of ADRs. **(I) Age susceptible** ADRs include (i) chloramphenicol-associated grey baby syndrome in neonates⁵⁷ and (ii) extensive sleep pattern disturbances due to hypnotics in the elderly⁵⁸. **(II) Gender predominant**, but not limited, susceptible ADRs include increased prevalence of (i) alcohol intoxication⁵⁹, (ii) mefloquine-neuropsychiatric effects⁶⁰, (iii) ACE Inhibitors-cough⁶¹, and (iv) drug (ethosuximide, secukinumab, procainamide, hydralazine, sulfasalazine, isoniazid, and carbamazepine)-induced lupus-like syndrome in females⁶². The examples of ADRs with **(III) altered physiology** include the risk of teratologic effects associated with the use of antiepileptics, such as valproate, phenobarbital, phenytoin, carbamazepine, and lamotrigine in pregnancy^{25,63}. The ADRs due to **(IV) genetic changes** include (i) drug-induced pseudoporphyria due to various drugs (NSAIDs, antibiotics, retinoids, diuretics, and oral contraceptives)⁶⁴, (ii) succinylcholine sensitivity⁶⁵, (iii) malignant hyperthermia⁶⁶, and (iv) CYP isoenzyme



polymorphisms³³. Certain ADRs are due to **(V) Exogenous factors**, such as drug interactions with (i) grapefruit juice (food) wherein these drugs cleared by CYP3A4^{67,68} and (ii) diseases including (a) renal insufficiency and increased lithium toxicity⁶⁹ and (b) hepatic cirrhosis and morphine-induced hepatic encephalopathy⁷⁰.

d) Description of an 'ADR' based on the DoTS (Dose-Time-Susceptibility) classification⁷¹

(i) Osteoporosis due to long-term use of corticosteroids in pediatrics, adults, women of childbearing age, post-menopausal women, and risk populations.⁷² **Do:** collateral effect; **T:** late; **S:** age, gender.

(ii) Anaphylaxis due to penicillin.^{13,17,73} **Do:** hypersusceptibility; **T:** first dose; **S:** not understood, needs previous sensitization.

(iii) Hepatotoxicity because of isoniazid.^{16,20,74} **Do:** collateral effect; **T:** intermediate; **S:** genetic (drug metabolism), age, exogenous (alcohol), sickness (malnutrition).

2. REPORTING OF 'ADRS' – STANDARDS AND SYSTEMS

Reports of ADRs are usually initiated by healthcare staff such as general physicians (GP), GP associates, pharmacists, nurses, or drug safety directors from hospitals, ambulatory sites, or communities.^{75,76} Reporting systems might also be designed to receive reports from patients, families, or client advocates. Reporting might capture errors, injuries, non-harmful errors, instrumentation malfunctions, method failures, or alternative hazards.⁷⁷ While an individual report might contain necessary info about a specific incident or event, the notion of a reporting system refers to the processes and technology concerned within the standardization, communication, formatting, feedback, evaluation, learning, response, and dissemination of lessons learned from reported events.^{75,77,78}

ADR susceptibility is impacted by factors such as pregnancy, quality, polypharmacy, disease states, age, and gender.^{76,77,79} Drug safety depends on nurses and other medical professionals being aware of the potential for ADRs, collaborating with patients to maximize medication use, and being watchful when reporting ADRs via the Yellow Card Scheme⁸⁰. "The science and activities reference with the detection, assessment, understanding, and interception of adverse effects or any other possible drug-related problem, particularly long-term and short-term adverse effects of medicines," is how the WHO defines pharmacovigilance.^{77,78,81} Throughout the past 50 years, spontaneous reporting systems, such as the UK's Yellow Card Scheme, were established in 1964 following the thalidomide disaster of the 1950s. Through spontaneous reporting, the scheme collects information on suspected ADRs for both licensed and unlicensed medicines and vaccines, including those purchased over the counter or by prescription. validation of a report

requires only four items of data, namely (i) an identifiable patient, (ii) a reaction, (iii) a suspected medicinal product, and (iv) an identifiable reporter. Therefore, reporters are encouraged to provide as much detailed information as possible to provide additional data and clinical context for assessors.⁸²

Although frequently used for pharmacovigilance, spontaneous reporting systems function effectively when adverse events are uncommon and unusual (affecting fewer than 1% of treated patients) and when an event indicates a condition brought on by the drug (such as erythema multiforme).^{75,76,81} Their use is more confined to identifying a small increase in the rate of common events, such as myocardial infarction or stroke. This is the reason why recent drug safety scandals, such as thiazolidinedione-induced and rofecoxib-induced cardiovascular events, remained undetected despite the widespread use of these agents.⁸¹⁻⁸³ Reporting is further impacted by ignorance about where and how ADRs should be reported. Lack of time or overload, legal considerations, ignorance (that only serious ADRs are to be reported), fear that intense ADRs are already documented once a drug is introduced into the market, and financial incentives are other potential causes of poor reporting.⁸²⁻⁸⁵ Importantly, four main obstacles to the reportage of ADRs have been recognized, such as (i) pharmacovigilance is seen as an improbable ideal, (ii) the reportage authority is perceived as a virtual and remote entity, (iii) healthcare professionals don't feel involved in the risks related to the medications utilized in their practice, and (iv) Healthcare professionals are unsure regarding the scope of their role in reporting adverse effects.⁸⁶⁻⁸⁹

3. STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE REPORTING OF 'ADRS'

Reporting of ADRs is generally done by medically educated and professionally certified, qualified, or licensed/registered healthcare practitioners (clinicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses) who are skilled and trained to collect, validate, summarize, and analyze ADRs.^{75,90-92} Moreover, patients and consumers are also inspired to report and acknowledge ADRs to prevent similar suffering in other patients, prevent future incidents, minimize the risk, reduce the incidence of ADRs, avoid hospitalization, and reduce the cost of treatment and economic burden on their families and societies. Indeed, patients and their family members are encouraged to extend their familiarity with reportage processes to enhance the quality and quantity of reporting.⁹²⁻⁹⁴ However, it has been reported that patients might not be aware of ADR reportage systems and may be confused about how and where to report.^{90,95-97} Numerous strategies have been implemented to improve the knowledge, attitude, and practice of ADR reporting. The first is to improve patients' knowledge, attitudes, and practice toward the reportage of ADRs as there is a need for public awareness campaigns to deal with the importance of reporting.^{78,79,97,98} Second, by providing feedback to patients with their reportage followed by assessment of patients reporting in a higher



cognitive process, comparison of the results of reports, and enhancement of patient awareness on ADRs and reporting management systems.^{89,90,93,97} Third, to design a single or unique official reporting system for each patient and healthcare provider, to develop measures to enhance the interfacing of patients' and healthcare providers' reports, and to process and evaluate the potential ADRs within the bulk data of similar reports.^{79,90,97,98} In addition, all healthcare providers including pharmacists and nurses who spend the most time with patients and collect knowledge on patients' bedside conditions should be educated on the way to participate in reporting ADRs as the large data of ADR reports will improve the impact of the pharmacovigilance system.^{79,90,99}

4. ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD QUALITY 'ADR' REPORT

The minimum criteria for reporting ADRs for the regulatory body requirements, and the essential characteristics and the required data components for an ADR case are (i) a recognizable reporter, (ii) an identifiable patient, (iii) an adverse reaction, and (iv) a suspect product⁷¹. Some barriers to the effective implementation of the ADR reporting and observance system might be money constraints, the absence of clinical confirmation of patients' reports, the impossibility of sharing patients' reports with primary healthcare suppliers, and the inability to match reports from totally different sources. Mechanisms for reporting and recording ADRs must not solely provide info regarding the entire variety of reports but also add their severity, unexpectedness, and therefore the degree of causality attributed to ADRs.^{90,95-97,100}

5. ANALYSIS AND CAUSALITY ASSESSMENT OF REPORTED ADRs

ADR reporting is important for drug safety analysis within the post-marketing phase. It is an ongoing and continuous method. Studies from the institute help to spot and rectify the issues associated with ADR reporting. Reporting adverse drug reactions (ADRs) is undoubtedly hampered by several factors, including polypharmacy, difficulty detecting ADRs, physician workload, and time constraints.⁹⁹⁻¹⁰² Essentially, the data on the ADRs should be analyzed and evaluated considering numerous parameters, such as (i) patient characteristics, particularly age, gender, health status, organ function status, comorbidities, past and current medication history, and previous known allergies and events of ADR¹⁰³⁻¹⁰⁵, (ii) ADR characteristics including individual reactions, ADR type, class, and affected organ system^{90,100,101}, (iii) drug characteristics including the name of the drug, dose (amount, single and multiple), route, time, and rate of administration, brand and generic names, manufacturing and labelling information, and therapeutic and pharmacological class^{105,106}, (iv) causality assessment using the validated scale, such as the Naranjo Probability scale as definite, probable, and possible¹⁰⁴⁻¹⁰⁶, (v) severity assessment to categorize ADR into mild, moderate, and severe based on their severity with the help of severity

assessment criteria developed by Hartwig et al.¹⁰⁴⁻¹⁰⁶, (vi) outcome assessment of patient experienced ADR for recovery and survival, such as totally recovered, recovered, unknown, or fatal¹⁰³⁻¹⁰⁶, (vii) management of ADR including the abatement of a drug, substitution of the drug, dose reduction, rechallenge, dechallenge, extra intervention for ADR, any changes in management plan, or no further treatment^{101,104,106-108}. Considering the requirements to promote awareness, encourage reporting, and educate causality assessment of ADR amongst healthcare professionals, steps should be taken to reassure and improve the quality of ADR reporting by organizing seminars and workshops for clinicians and paramedical staff.^{100,102,109}

6. ADR REPORTING IN INDIA

A common standardized data set characterized by quality, comparability, and reporting rates will optimize drug safety surveillance efforts. Moreover, regulation at the system level desires the inclusion of comprehensive, systematic, and regular patient checking for undesirable adverse effects of medicines. The Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI) is an initiative by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) in collaboration with the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), operating under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.^{79,90-94,100,110,111}

6A) What to report: Regardless of a proven causative link between a medicine and any suspected ADR, the PvPI supports the reporting of all suspected ADRs, regardless of whether they are known, unknown, significant, non-serious, common, or rare.^{90,91,94,110}

6B) Where to report: Patients and consumers and all medical professionals, such as dentists, pharmacists, nurses, and clinicians will report ADRs to the National Coordination Center (NCC) or ADR Monitoring Centre (AMC). Pharma companies may also provide NCC-specific case safety reports related to their products.^{90,91,94,110}

6C) How to report: Suspected ADR reporting forms for healthcare professionals and customers are accessible on the website of IPC to report ADR. To remove the language barrier in ADR reportage, the customer reporting form is made accessible in ten vernacular languages (Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Bengali, Gujarati, Assamese, Marathi, Oriya, and Malayalam). On weekdays from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm, ADRs are frequently additionally reported by calling the PvPI support number (18001803024).^{90,91,94,110}

6D) Whom to report: A reporter will send the filled ADR reporting form directly to NCC or their nearest AMC. Just in the case of AMC, these reports are confirmed by care professionals entered into Vigiflow, and sent to NCC for more assessment. These reports are finally assessed at the NCC and carried out at the WHO-Uppsala Monitoring Centre. The obtained data is entered within the drug safety database, analyzed, and assessed by the specialists to spot new signals.^{90,91,94,110}



The submitted ADR reports do not have any legal implications for the reporters as the patients' identities are held in strict confidence and guarded to the fullest extent. Therefore, healthcare providers are inspired to report ADRs for a higher understanding of the risks related to the utilization of medicines and to safeguard the health of the Indian population.^{91,94,104}

7. PREVENTION OF AN ADVERSE DRUG REACTION

Preventing ADRs depends on avoiding treatment in cohorts of patients who are at risk, enhanced susceptibility, or providing treatment reduces the danger of an adverse effect (e.g. co-administration of different medicines, observation of biopsy results). Spontaneous reportage (using the Yellow Card Scheme within the UK) supported the suspicion that an ADR is an essential part of pharmacovigilance studies; however, ADRs are immensely underreported across tending healthcare settings and sectors. If unsure, it is best to submit a report.^{77,78,81,82} Besides, ADRs are one of the great mimics in healthcare, typically emulating 'traditional diseases' and manifesting in all systems of the body. Drug-related issues in patients admitted to a hospital could be different in various ways, such as weakness or somnolence, biochemical or hematological derangements (such as urinary organ injury, electrolyte imbalance or anemia), bleeding, gastrointestinal disturbances, hypoglycemia^{79-82,112,113}, age groups and special populations (pediatrics, pregnant, geriatrics)¹¹⁴⁻¹¹⁶, irrational prescribing and use of antibiotics and loss of effectiveness due to antibiotic resistance^{9,38,117,118}, drug-related urgent hospitalizations^{119,120}, drug-related readmission^{121,122}, or healthcare-associated infections, such as *Clostridia difficile* infection^{38,109, 122-124}.

Two basic steps will be followed to prevent an ADR from occurring. First, identify the subgroup of patients who are likely to be susceptible to the adverse effect and modify the treatment alternative consequently. Second, ensure the treatment plan mitigates any potential adverse effects. Apart from this strategy, healthcare practitioners should (i) avoid and be vigilant of high-risk drugs^{114,116,125}, (ii) discontinue unnecessary drugs and irrational use of drugs^{119,136,127}, (iii) consider drugs as a cause of any new symptom^{9,116,127}, (iv) identify irrational use (misuse, underdose, overdose, drug abuse, over the counter use, self-medication)^{116,118,120,15}, (v) identify the wrong route of administration^{114,116,122}, (vi) identify co-administration of multiple drugs, drugs of the same therapeutic class, and alcohol^{125,126}, (vii) avoid treating side effects with another drug leading to unnecessary use of irrelevant dose and inappropriate drugs^{9,126-128}, (viii) identify and avoid potential risk of drug-drug interactions^{114,119}, (ix) adjust dosing based on age, the status of liver and kidney function, and mineral ion balance^{38,122,125} (x) risk/benefit consideration, and management plan^{111,125,129}, (xi) investigate the problem's cause, action and follow-up^{116,122}, (xii) identify barriers to medication adherence and address medication non-adherence^{126,127}, (xiii)

educate patients and family members to seek medical services, get to know medical emergency contact numbers and personnels, and bring to medical attention on experiencing undesired effects after drug administration^{119,126,130}, (xiv) update continuously on pharmacogenetics, evidenced based practice guidelines, and latest ADR signals from clinical trials¹³¹⁻¹³³, and (xv) promoting and improving patient awareness of rational use of drugs, and avoiding and management of ADRs^{117,118,128-130}.

8. ROLE OF PHARMACIST IN REPORTING AND MANAGING ADRs

A patient's primary point of contact with the healthcare system both before and throughout drug therapy is a pharmacist. ADRs in health systems can be better designed and implemented with the assistance of pharmacists, who are particularly suited to offer useful information about medication products, monitor adverse events, and assist in designing and implementing system improvements.^{87,88,134} Emphatically, pharmacists play a quintessential role pivotal to identifying, assessing, strategically planning management, resolving, and preventing ADRs, and can be further enhanced through education and training of one's self as well as patients.⁸⁶⁻⁸⁹ Notwithstanding this, it is equally important to emphasize the importance of regularly monitoring and reporting ADRs, particularly among clinical and community pharmacists.

The pharmacist should facilitate the following activities, such as (i) analyzing each reported ADR, (ii) identifying drugs and patients at high risk associated with ADRs and adverse events, (iii) the development of scope, policies, and procedures for the ADR monitoring and reporting programs, (iv) description of the responsibilities and interactions of pharmacists with clinicians, nurses, risk managers, and other healthcare professionals in the ADR programs, (v) making academic and promoting self- and patients' educational use of the ADR programs, and (vi) collecting appropriate data to create, preserve, and regularly assess ADR records and databases including use of uniform reporting rates and tracking the frequency of ADR incidents regionally, nationally, and globally, (vii) sharing information to regulatory authorities and public health departments nationally and globally, (viii) application of data acquired by the ADR program in signal detection and evaluation, (ix) creating and managing databases throughout the organization and across the nations, (x) developing risk evaluation, mitigation and minimization strategies, (xi) promoting awareness and education on rational drug use and ADRs, and (xii) facilitating the reporting of serious or unexpected ADRs^{86-89,131-136}.

SUMMARY

Owing to the paramount importance of monitoring, managing, and preventing ADRs in assuring health benefits, improving trust in drug regulatory authorities, gaining acceptance of new drug approvals, promoting



rational drug use, minimizing drug resistance and treatment failure, and enhancing drug safety to patients, special emphasis should be given in understanding ADR classification, dose, types, susceptibility, and associated risk factors in identifying and reporting an ADR. The overall objective of lowering the risk and severity of ADRs within a clinical setting should be attained by programs that prioritize surveillance, thorough documentation in medical records, reporting to and evaluation by an interdisciplinary committee, and healthcare providers' and patients' education. Progressively, clinical and community pharmacists can help with the coordination and intercommunication between clinicians and patients of ADR reporting programs.

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