



Short Commentary of Home Medicine Review - Benefits, Difficulties and Problems

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Received: 19-05-2019; Revised: 26-06-2019; Accepted: 04-07-2019.

ABSTRACT

The observations made by research investigators during Home Medicine Review in Mysuru city were reflected with Home Medicine Review is time consuming procedure, where pharmacist have to travel to patient home destination as per the directions of patient consultant. In spite of getting referral from patient consultant, pharmacist have to take appointment from patient in according to their convenient schedule time. Whenever pharmacist calls to patient telephonic number, most of the patient refuses to give permission for home visit due to reasons described in this paper.

Keywords: Home, medicine review.

INTRODUCTION

This was observation made by research investigators during Home Medicine Review in Mysuru city with following reflections as mentioned below.

In Indian health care settings, there are certain risks associated to carry out this research work. Home Medicine Review is time consuming procedure, where pharmacist have to travel to patient home destination as per the direction of patient consultant. In spite of getting referral from patient consultant, pharmacist have to take appointment from patient in according to their convenient scheduled time. Whenever pharmacist calls to patient telephonic number, most of the patient refuses to give permission for home visit due to following reasons as mentioned below

- Due to disturbance of family or personal privacy.
- Lack of faith on pharmacists.
- Home Medicine Review awareness is lacking among general public.
- Patients with no health care takers may suspect pharmacists as strangers, in spite of approaching in good appearance to patient destination.
- Until and unless, patient medical condition is unstable which needs to have frequent monitoring, this type of health care services becomes less significant.

Other difficulties that may be encountered while carrying out this research work are:

- Until and unless local language is known, one may not be able to collect clear case history of patient.
- At last moment, patient will not permit to have medication review in home without any valid reason.

- Some patients deliberately make their telephonic number unreachable without any valid reason.
- Sometimes health care takers of patient may give false information about patient, stating that patient is out of station, in spite of patient is present in home.
- Pharmacist not be able to reach patient destination sometimes in correct schedule time due to more vehicle moments on the road.
- Some patient may be unwilling to give complete information to pharmacist, without any valid reason.
- False perception among general public where pharmacists are underestimated in such a way that they are meant only for dispensing and selling medications.
- Pharmacist may not be able to meet patient expectations in all the times, making patient to get frustrated.

Benefits of Home Medicine Review:

- Awareness will be created to patient with regarding to disease and medication aspects.
- Patients with no health care clinic from their respective residential destination will be the one who can be more benefitted.
- Patients with no health care takers may have more advantage with this type of health care programme.
- Patients with hearing and vision problem without any health care takers may be more benefitted from this type of health care programme.
- Patients suffering from more than four to five comorbidities may be more benefitted from this type of health care programme.



- Patient receiving different system of medicine may also be benefitted from this type of health care programme.
- Patient complete data base can be created in community pharmacy.
- General physician workload can be minimised by the assistance of Home Medicine Review pharmacist.
- Pharmacist intervention in any medical case can help in attaining proper therapeutic end point depending upon drug related problems found in that particular medical case. The therapeutic end point of any medical case depends whether pharmacist intervention has been accepted by patient consultant and therapeutic changes has been made in according to pharmacist suggestions. There are certain circumstances where some of pharmacist interventions will not be accepted in spite of justifying correct reasons for medication related problems by concerned patient consultant without any valid reason.
- Medication Adherence can also be improved with this type of health care programme.
- This type of health care programme may also create opportunity of placement for pharmacist and general physician.
- Home Medicine Review can also create better rapport between patient, pharmacist and doctor if it is executed in proper procedure.
- Patients with more comorbidities needs more monitoring to have close observation how patient is responding to prescribed treatment. If patient is having any medication related problem, proper screening of treatment should be done and any issues with medications should be immediately bring into the notice of concerned patient consultant. This type of health care services should be more applicable for patients having more medical follow ups followed by lack of transport facilities from patient home destination to consultant destination.
- Patient with poor literacy status can be more benefitted with this type of health care programme.
- The collaboration between pharmacist and general physician can be established, depending upon how pharmacist executes this health care programme at the point of delivery.

One of the research works carried out in Australia with respect to Home Medicine Review reflects that following problems were observed ¹.

- Hospitalisation due to adverse drug events among general population were accountable for 5.6% followed by elderly patients was accountable for 30.4%.
- According to this research study medication adherence among patients was accountable for 50-60%.
- Patients with poor literacy rate have difficulty in understanding health information in according to research investigator of this research study.
- The importance of Home Medicine Review in according to research investigator of this research study was to reduce irrational use of medicines.
- According to this research study, evidence shows that interdisciplinary research work between doctor and pharmacist can prove better health outcomes of patient ¹.

Strategies required for successful Home Medicine Review:

According to this research study, following strategies can be adopted such as ¹

- The patient may have positive health outcomes depending upon how Home Medicine Review operated.
- Patient who are part of this health care programme need to have clear understanding of this health care programme how this health care programme can be more beneficial to them.
- Patient should receive proper positive inputs about Home Medicine Review from doctor and pharmacist. In other words, it depends upon how doctor and pharmacist convince patient to be part of this health care programme.
- Patient should be addressed about the different aspects that will be evaluated during Home Medicine Review by giving written document by patient consultant ¹.

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Source of Support: Nil, **Conflict of Interest:** None.

