

A clinical audit of sterile medical devices: A French experience of quality and safety improvement in hospital services

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Objectives: The objective of this study was to audit the quality and safe management of sterile medical devices (SMDs), to examine the pharmacist's role in a multidisciplinary team, and to provide an example of hospital staff assessment of SMDs.

Methods: SMD management was assessed using the National Agency for Support to the Performance of Health and Medical-Social Establishment tool in the Hospital Centre of Cannes, France, in August 2013. Safety policy in the healthcare establishment, and the SMD cycle in the hospital pharmacy, SMD cycle and care practices in the visceral–vascular– urological surgery care unit were evaluated by four health professionals and three hospital pharmacists. A total of 1850 references to SMDs for the hospital pharmacy and 1110 references to SMDs for the care unit were analyzed. The percentage of risk control was defined as: 0–33% 'low', 34–66% 'medium', 67–100%

'high'.

Results: Risk control was 'high' (67%) for the safety policy in the health establishment, 'high' (68%) and 'medium' (64%) for the SMD cycle in the hospital pharmacy and the care unit, respectively, and 'high' (88%) for the care practices. Good scores were obtained in both services.

Conclusions: Safety and quality standards were investigated, and satisfied. Training of health professionals and information about, and the presence of detailed procedures for safety policy and care practices showed good results. The main weak points were a deficit in IT support and a lack of procedures in the SMD cycle. The hospital pharmacist was shown to be a key figure in the multidisciplinary team.

Biography

Valeria Vinciguerra has graduated with a Pharmacy degree and a Specialization School of Hospital Pharmacy at the Turin University, in Italy. She is continuing her education attending a Master in Bioethics at the Theological Faculty of Turin. During her university and professional training, she had experiences in Hospital and most of all in Local Health Unit context. She had also some work experience in France (Paris, and Cannes), and participated at different projects with the first objective of improving the practice of the Hospital Pharmacy.

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