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A comparison of quality of prescriptions at primary, secondary and tertiary health care facilities using Prescription Quality Index tool

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Several tools have been introduced to evaluate the quality of prescribing. Study aim was to determine the quality of prescribing in hypertension and bronchial asthma in primary, secondary and tertiary health care setting using the new Prescription Quality Index (PQI) tool and to assess the reliability of this tool. A prospective cross-sectional study was carried out at selected PHCs, SHCs and THC facility for chronic conditions. Patients with hypertension and bronchial asthma, attending out-patient departments of each health care facility for at least 3 months were included. Complete medical history and prescriptions were noted. Total and criteria wise PQI scores were derived for each prescription and prescriptions were categorized as poor, medium and high quality. A total 356 patients was included. Mean age was 57.7 ± 14.7 years (range 4–87 years) with 36% patients above 65 years of age. Mean total PQI score was 28.9 ± 8.1 . Of 356 prescriptions, 138 (38.8%) prescriptions were of high quality with PQI score ≥ 34 . Prescribing quality in terms of PQI score showed significant difference between PHC, SHC and THC ($P < 0.0001$). The prescribing quality between PHCs and SHCs did not differ significantly ($P > 0.05$). The value of Cronbach's α for the entire 22 criteria of PQI was between 0.68 to 0.89. As evaluated by PQI tool, the quality of prescribing at THC was better as compared to SHCs & PHCs. PQI was found to be a reliable tool for assessment of prescribing quality in chronic diseases.

Biography

Jalpa Suthar did her B.Pharm and M.Pharm from A R College of Pharmacy and completed Ph D in 2015 in Clinical Pharmacy from Charotar University of Science And Technology (CHARUSAT) Changa, Gujarat, INDIA. She is currently working as Assistant Professor, Department of Clinical Pharmacy & Pharmacology, Ramanbhai Patel College of Pharmacy, Charusat University.

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