

Foundation and Advanced Competencies of Community and Hospital Pharmacists in Northern Philippines

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Background and Objectives: In most developed countries, a competency framework specific to the practice of pharmacy in the community is well-established and recognized as a means to facilitate individual continuing professional development and assist with performance review, thus progress could be seen in the provision of pharmaceutical care. However, such is not yet in place in certain developing countries including the Philippines. This study aimed to determine the awareness and preparedness of pharmacists to career progression and specialization through assessing their actual and perceived level of practice and to determine the correlation between the current level of practice of community and hospital pharmacists to the length of experience in their current practice areas.

Methods: A questionnaire was developed using the Philippines Practice Standards for Pharmacists. Seventy community and hospital pharmacists were selected via non-probability convenience sampling.

Results and Discussion: Perceived level of practice of community and hospital pharmacists showed an advanced level on all standards. The actual level of hospital pharmacists under Business Sustainability Assurance resulted as advanced and the rest were expert. For community pharmacists, all were advanced except for Providing Quality Medicines and Patient Needs which was expert. The correlation of actual level vs. perceived level demonstrated significant positive correlation for both pharmacists in all competency standards except for Business Sustainability Assurance which only showed significant correlation. The length of practice in hospital pharmacy was correlated with Providing Quality Medicines and Patient Needs and the rest were not correlated.

Conclusion: There is a current recognition of pharmacy practice, particularly the role of each pharmacist to ensure patient safety. The advancement of competencies proves the strong sense of responsibility among Filipino Pharmacists to continually improve, and thus provide better quality services to the clients and patients.

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