

Knowledge and Attitudes toward Smoking Cessation Management of Student-Pharmacists in a Private University in the Philippines

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The study aimed to determine the knowledge, attitude, and perceived barriers of 3rd-year and 4th-year student-pharmacists towards smoking cessation management. A 41-question survey instrument was developed based on the study's objectives and was disseminated through Google Forms. A total sample size of 122 respondents participated in the study, wherein 63 were 3rd-year students, and 59 were 4th-year students. The student-pharmacists' level of knowledge in smoking cessation is high in terms of smoking cessation products, with higher results on Nicotine Replacement Therapies (NRT), and with highest results on the use of patches (3.19; 3.34; 3.26). Student-pharmacists expressed a positive attitude towards smoking cessation and the importance of knowledge through training/education and sharing with other smokers. Most of the student-pharmacists strongly agreed that tobacco use is an addiction which equally resulted in their attitude that quitting using tobacco products is necessary. Respondents manifested that they are motivated and can allot a time to gain knowledge on smoking cessation for them to help smokers quit smoking which is contrary to the perceived barriers. The students concurred that they are having a barrier towards acquiring more knowledge in smoking cessation due to lack of schools training or education and inadequate learning materials. As a result, elements were identified that will increase student pharmacists' involvement in smoking cessation efforts, aid in increasing students' knowledge of smoking as a public health issue, and emphasize the importance of their position in the future.

Keywords: *Smoking cessation, Student-pharmacists*