

Level of Knowledge on Diabetes Management of Student-Pharmacists in a Private University in the Philippines

Mark Ryan D. Langit*; John Edward Leo D. Bautista; Lorraine Kyle E. Bohol; Myla T. Caballero; Janine Lizette D. Cabrera; Jericho Calica; Diamond Dianne T. Daganos; Arvy T. Dela Cruz; Farah Joy D. Dogwe; Mannex S. Donguiz; Maria Eloiza Dulin

Department of Pharmacy, Saint Louis University, Baguio City 2600 Philippines

*Corresponding/ Primary author

Email address: mrclangit@slu.edu.ph

ABSTRACT

This study aimed to examine the level of knowledge of student-pharmacists in terms of their understanding and skills regarding diabetes management, to determine the level of familiarity of the student-pharmacists in their roles and responsibilities in the measurement of insulin and ranges of blood sugar levels and prevention and treatment of the chronic disease, and to examine the level of acceptance and anticipation of student pharmacists in implementing a professional specialization leading to diabetes mellitus management. The questionnaire used by Bakshi et al. (2021) was adopted and revised to meet the study's objectives and was disseminated through Google Forms. A total sample size of 122 respondents participated in the study, wherein 59 were fourth-year student pharmacists and 63 were third-year student pharmacists. The student pharmacists' overall general knowledge of diabetes mellitus, symptoms, complications, and diagnosis of pharmacy students were shown to be at a highly proficient level, with the highest result on the level of knowledge on symptoms of diabetes mellitus (81.25%). On the other hand, results showed that student pharmacists may need more knowledge to the level of knowledge on complications resulting from diabetes mellitus (59.18%). The student pharmacists are highly familiar with the prevention and treatment of diabetes mellitus (79.72%), while they are only familiar with the services provided by pharmacists to diabetic patients (59.33%) and on the measurement of insulin and ranges of blood sugar levels (56.50%). Overall, a majority of the student pharmacists (98.45%) in both year levels have shown interest in undertaking a diabetes management specialization to improve their knowledge and competence in diabetes management. This result poses a potential to initiate a diabetes management specialization for student pharmacists and may serve as a basis for further investigation in other universities in the Philippines.

Keywords: Diabetes management, Students, Pharmacists, specialization, Knowledge, Familiarity