Multidisciplinary Collaboration between a Community Pharmacy and a Travel Clinic

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Vaccination in Swiss community pharmacy

Switzerland: a federal state
with 4 languages and 26 cantons, each being
sovereign for health-related aspects!

Current situation
- Since 2011 swiss pharmacists are authorized to vaccine
- Vaccination directly in pharmacy in 19 (out of 26) cantons
- Influenza vaccination allowed in the 19 cantons
- No specific vaccination or health advice related to travels in community pharmacies

Current situation
- Additional vaccinations
  tickborne encephalitis / MMR / Hep A, B, A+B / HPV / DTP
- Specific requirements
e.g. room and material, age of patients, first dose administered by a physician, etc.
Lausanne: example of a multidisciplinary collaboration

Unisanté:
- A university primary care and public health center
- General practitioners, nurse practitioners and community pharmacists
- A travel clinic
- A community pharmacy

The Travel Clinic
- One of the two major centers in the French-speaking part of Switzerland
- Head of the travel clinic: professor of tropical and travel medicine
- 8 physicians, 8 nurses, 2 pharmacists and 13 pharmacy technicians care for adults, geriatric and child travellers

The Community pharmacy center
- Includes a community pharmacy as well as a research unit
- Head of the community pharmacy: professor of pharmacy practice
- 15 pharmacists and 17 pharmacy technicians in the community pharmacy
- In 2018: 55'000 patients
  19'000 vaccines delivered in Unisanté

Collaboration between the travel clinic and the pharmacy

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians collaborate with the travel clinic by providing:
1. Counselling and clinical activities with travellers
2. Clinical pharmacy expertise and medicine information services
3. Technical and logistical activities related to medicine and vaccines
4. Educational activities

Consultant pharmacists manage pre-travel consultations:
- Since 2009, two pharmacists perform regular activities in the travel clinic
- During the consultation
  ✔ give advices related to the travel
  ✔ perform vaccinations
  ✔ prescribe antimalarial medicines
- 2018: 368 pre-travel consultations
Counselling and clinical activities with travellers: pharmacy technicians

Pharmacy technicians charge the pre-travel consultation fees and take this opportunity to:
- Promote actively travelling items such as mosquito repellents or nets, sun cream protection, tablets for water purification, etc.
- Deliver non prescription medicine such as anti-diarrheals, antihistamines, disinfectants, etc.
- Supply medicines prescribed during the pre-travel consultations such as antimalarials

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Clinical pharmacy expertise and medicine information services

- A medicine information service (MIS) related to the Community pharmacy center run by pharmacists
- The MIS answers questions related to medication management, drug-drug interactions, etc.

668 questions raised in 2018 by the travel clinic
80% concerned drug-drug interactions with antimalarials
80% of the questions were answered in less than 5 min.
and 17% in 6 to 15 min.

Tools and databases managed by the medicines information service

The MIS develops and updates tools and databases related to medicines and vaccines:
- drug-drug interaction database specifically dedicated to antimalarials
- medicine comparison charts related to antimalarials, vaccines, medications used in the prevention of deep vein thrombosis
- database on temperature excursion management

Publications by the medicines information service

The MIS publishes:
- Information leaflets related to imported medicines prescribed by the travel clinic (e.g. diethylcarbamazine, niclosamide, praziquantel, primaquine that are not marketed in Switzerland)
- Patient information leaflets on how to travel with medicines

Advantages of the collaboration with the medicines information service

Allows care providers performing pre-travel consultations to:
- select the safest antimalarial considering the medication plan of the traveller and his health's condition
- focus on the consultation while the pharmacist focuses on the potential drug-drug interaction and select the best alternatives!
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Temperature excursion management

- Monitoring of the storage temperature of the vaccines and drugs
- Temperature excursion management:
  - In case of alarm, quarantine and determination of the action to take based on internal and external databases

Importation of medicines and vaccines not marketed in Switzerland

- The pharmacy team asks for the different authorisations (importation, administration)
- Coordinates the importation process with a foreign wholesaler and Swiss customs
- 2018: 300 doses of Typhim® (typhoid injectable vaccine) imported from France

Technical and logistical activities related to medicine and vaccines

The supply chain of medicines and vaccines administered at the travel clinic or delivered to the travellers is managed by the community pharmacy team:
- Stock management
- Orders of vaccines and drugs, including drug shortage management
- Disposal of unused drugs

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Educational activities – pre-graduate

- Large experience gathered through multidisciplinary activities
- Community Pharmacy Center provides training on vaccines and travel medicine to other pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and students:
  - Pharmacist's students at the University of Geneva: 4h on counselling travellers and 4h on immunisation

Educational activities – continuous education

- Community pharmacists and pharmacy technicians throughout the French speaking part of Switzerland (in 2018: 3 full days training and 2 seminars on updates to vaccination schemes)
- Training provided to nurses and physicians of the travel clinic, related to the medicines, drug interactions, fake drugs, medicine transportation during the travel

Conclusions

- Travel medicine is evolving and meets many challenges related to medication: e.g. frequent vaccine shortages, increasing number of chronic patients traveling
- A multidisciplinary collaboration as the one built in Lausanne between a travel clinic and a community pharmacy should be encouraged as it enables us to address this evolution in a successful way
- It's also a real advantage for travelers and health professionals
- A model for the dissemination of such practices?