



Challenges and Opportunities of Practicing Pharmacy in Oman

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Oman is a small oil and gas-rich Gulf country that has one of the best health care facilities and experiencing rapid as well as continuous development in health care sector. The pharmaceutical policies governing pharmacy practice including prescribing, dispensing, manufacturing, registration, storage, pharmaceutical care, pharmacovigilance and import of medicines are at par with International standards. Current pharmacy practice based research outcomes have reported a significant reduction in adverse drug reactions, length of hospital stay and cost of care in country. Some of the surveys conducted among the community pharmacy practitioners are found to be equipped with necessary references. Pharmaceutical interventions by the pharmacists at Out-Patient and In-Patient departments of the hospitals have highest rate of acceptance by the physician higher than any other countries. Specialists pharmacists working in special wards such as Plastic surgery, Emergency, Infection control, Paediatric, Oncology, Nutrition, Cardiology, Nephrology, Operation theatre, etc, are contributing significantly in improvement of pharmaceutical care provided by the health care team. There is a paradigm shift in pharmacy practice where the pharmacists are focussing on pharmaceutical care and its outcome rather than products or tasks. Pharmacists in Oman are considered as an integral part of health care team as patient-centred care is predominantly practiced across the Nation. Initiatives taken by Directorate of Pharmaceutical Affairs, Directorate of Rational Use of Medicines, Directorates of secondary and tertiary care hospitals, Ministry of Health and their close interaction with educational institutes in Oman has lead to an effective alignment of practice with the education. This has also lead to development of stronger leadership of pharmacy groups at the practice level contributing in the fast development of the practice of pharmacy in this country. Pharmacy education is rapidly changing and these changes are anticipated not only meets the current needs of the country but also future needs. In this lecture, I will provide a snapshot of the pharmacy practice in Oman, while doing so I will discuss the challenges that face the practice, and the opportunities that are destined to move pharmacy practice forward in Oman.