

Role and impact of medical technology related services in primary health care in the Nordic and Baltic countries

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Introduction/Background: Medical Technology (MT) encompasses a wide range of health care products, and is used to diagnose, monitor or treat every disease or condition that affects humans (1). MT covers pharmaceuticals, medical devices, procedures and organizational systems used in health care.

With aging of population, increase of ambulatory care and multiple-use of medicines, different technology tools have been used to contribute to the safe and effective use of medicines and decrease health care costs on medicines. Multi-dose dispensing (MDD) of medicines is a service whereby regularly used medicines are machine-packed into unit-dose bags for each time of administration (2). MDD is a regular primary healthcare service in the Nordic countries (Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland), and in Baltic countries it has started in Estonia as a pilot project for elderly homes and ambulatory patients in 2013.

Today, little is known on the role and impact of MT and technology assisted services in the health care and society. Community pharmacies and MT are closely linked. In the Nordic and Baltic countries, community pharmacies are an important source for counseling and dispensing of MT. Increasingly, people prefer to buy MT from pharmacies as they are considered to be closely related preparations to medicinal products (3).

In 2014, the network of Nordic and Baltic countries was established to evaluate the current status in education and practice of MT in pharmacy.

Aim: To present and discuss the results of the Nordic-Baltic joint research on MT education. To map the future activities in education, practice and research of MT related services (including MDD) in pharmacy. To involve new participants to the Nordic-Baltic network of MT and corresponding technology assisted services.

Topics to be addressed:

- Development of guidelines for academic education and professional continuing education on MT for pharmacy students and pharmacists.
- Development of counseling guidelines for chronic patients using MT related treatments.
- Development of research strategy for evaluation the impact of MT related services (including MDD) in primary healthcare.

The previous topics will be discussed and evaluated to find the best practices for the future activities.

Learning outcomes: After the workshop the participants acknowledge more the importance and impact of MT and technology related services in healthcare. The workshop will give some directions for developments in education, research and practice of MT related services.

References:

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