THE BURDEN OF COVID-19 ON PHARMACISTS

Implications on mental and physical health and a way forward

SEPTEMBER 25, 2021 WORLD PHARMACIST'S DAY #WPD2021

COVID-19 AND THE ROLE OF THE PHARMACIST

Since the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in December 2019, pharmacists worldwide are playing a key role adopting innovative strategies to minimize the adverse impact of the pandemic.

THE CHANGING ROLE

Pharmacists continue to play key role during the pandemic, acting directly with the community to provide reliable information for preventing, detecting, treating and managing coronavirus infections [1].

NOVEL CHALLENGES

Amidst the rapid shift in the core roles of the pharmacist, this novel context of pharmaceutical care has impacted the experiences of these health professionals [1].

INCREASED WORKLOAD + INCREASED RISK OF INFECTION OUTCOMES^[2]

INCREASED WORKLOAD

First Point of Care

Medication Shortage Management

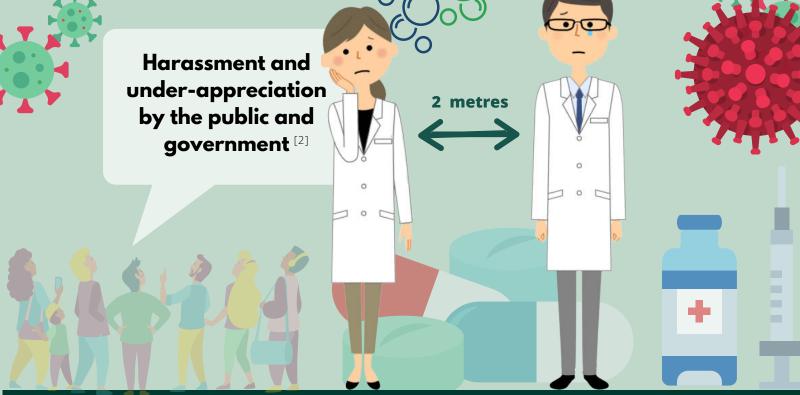
Virtual Consultations

Information Dissemination

Increased Communication with HCPs

High Uptake of Flu Vaccines

COVID-19 Screening COVID-19 Vaccinations Continuity of Care Patient Triage PE Shortages



OUTCOMES: BURNOUT, ANGER, STRESS, WORK DISSATISFACTION, ANXIETY

HEALTH PROTECTION STRATEGIES FOR FUTURE PANDEMIC WAVES

Physical & Mental Health Protection

- *Mental health programs;* individual/group stress management workshops, telephone hotlines and targeted media.
- Managing drug shortages; standardize drug supply recommendations, target misinformation, increase use of prescriptiononly-medicines (POMS). ^[1]

Workplace Safety

• *Flu vaccine and COVID testing*; optimize PPE supply, increase capacity for remote and in-person appointments.^[1]



- *Telehealth;* standardize user friendly technology and staff training.
- Fund Canada's National Emergency Strategic Stockpile (NESS).^[1]
- Support domestic PPE suppliers.[1]

Environmental Controls

- Collaboration between HCPs: enable pharmacists to exercise full scope of practice, work with physicians for patient case management.^[1]
- *Work settings;* facilitate shorter shift lengths, reliable support staff, promote single-task focused work ethic.^[1]

1.Elbeddini, A., Botross, A., Gerochi, R., Gazarin, M., & Elshahawi, A. (2020). Pharmacy response to COVID-19: lessons learnt from Canada. Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice, 13(1), 1-8. . Visacri, M. B., Figueiredo, I. V., & de Mendonça Lima, T. (2021). Role of pharmacist during the COVID-19 pandemic: a scoping review. Research in social and administrative pharmacy, 17(1), 1799-1806.

