

Drug Utilization

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Definition

- Marketing, distribution, prescription and use of drugs in the society, with emphasis in the medical, social and economic consequences. (WHO, 1997)
- Prescription, distribution and consumption of drugs. (Department of Health, Education and Welfare)

Introduction

These studies will include:

- Medical and non medical aspects that influence the utilization.
- The socio-anthropological, behavioral and economic effects of the drug utilization.

Objectives

- Identification and analysis of the problem in relation to:
 - Importance
 - Causes
 - Consequences
- Establishment of robust decisions in problem solutions
- Evaluation of the effects of the actions taken

Objectives

Useful for:

- Health authorities
- Pharmaceutical Industry
- Academia
- Health professionals
- Social Scientists
- Economists

Types of drug utilization Studies

Quantitative

- Analyzes the present state, development tendency and the time of use of drugs in the Health Sector as well as the different service levels
- To calculate the rates of reported adverse reactions
- Monitoring special drug categories that have expected problems (analgesic narcotic, hypnotic sedatives, etc)

Types of drug utilization Studies

Quantitative

- For monitoring the effect of the regulatory activities (adverse events alerts, changes in the health formularies)
- Crude markers of disease prevalence
- Planning for production, imports, distribution of drugs
- Pharmacoeconomic Estimations

Types of drug utilization Studies

Qualitative

- Proper drug utilization data
- Indication for use, daily dosage and duration of treatment
- Causes of inadequate drug indications
 - Failure to chose the most effective treatment option
 - Use of drug with high cost and low effectiveness

Types of drug utilization Studies

Qualitative

- Called Drug Utilization Review Studies
 - Used in USA, Spain, UK, France, Italy, Sweden, Germany and Brazil