



Initiatives to support French pharmacists in therapeutic patient education

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1. French pharmacists' health education committee (Cespharm)
2. French council of pharmacists



▶ CONTEXT

The French pharmacists' missions have been outlined in the Act of Parliament in July 2009. Therapeutic patient education (TPE) is part of these missions.

The French pharmacists' health education committee (Cespharm) is a department of the French Council of pharmacists. The purpose of the Cespharm is to help French pharmacists fully play their role in health education, prevention and TPE.

▶ IMPLEMENTATION

The Cespharm acts in different ways to help pharmacists to get involved in TPE:

PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION ON TPE

Professional information on patient education is regularly provided to all pharmacists:

- **articles** published by the Cespharm in the journal of the French Council of pharmacists
- **conferences** and **workshops** on TPE organised by the Cespharm and the French Council of pharmacists in different congresses or professional events
- ▶ **Objective:** explain to pharmacists what is TPE and how they could be involved in this field

CONCEPTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF TOOLS FOR PHARMACISTS

The Cespharm provides the pharmacists with the tools they need for the education of patients:

- **technical memos** for the pharmacists
The objective of these memos is to update pharmacists' knowledge and to underline their role in the education of patients with chronic diseases (diabetes, asthma, osteoporosis, hypertension...)
- **brochures and educative tools** intended for the public
- **a health education website** for pharmacists: www.cespharm.fr
Since January 2010, a Cespharm dedicated web-site has been available for pharmacists. This site gathers all useful information and tools for pharmacists in the field of prevention, health education and TPE. The goal of this web-site is to provide French pharmacists with a practical assistance to get involved in these fields, especially in TPE.



PROMOTION OF PHARMACISTS' TRAINING IN TPE

Pharmacy curriculum: drawing up of guidelines

In partnership with the French Academy of Pharmacy, the Cespharm has been involved in the drawing up of guidelines for integrating TPE into the pharmacy curriculum. These guidelines have been communicated to the 24 French pharmaceutical universities in 2010.

Continuing education: design and promotion of training programmes on TPE for community pharmacists in partnership with continuing education associations

Implementation of a national training programme on the therapeutic education of asthmatic patients

- **Partners:**

5 national organisations: the Cespharm, the continuing education association for French pharmacists (UTIP-FPC), the French committee against respiratory diseases (CNMR), the French-speaking society of pneumology (SPLF) and the Asthma and allergy association.

- **Objective:**

To help pharmacists to get involved in the education of asthmatic patients by updating their knowledge on asthma care and developing practical skills and specific attitudes.

- **Assessment:**

- 45 training sessions took place all over France between July 2008 and June 2010.
- Satisfaction: a great satisfaction of pharmacists was noted (96%)
- Impact on pharmacists' practice: this programme had got an impact on pharmacists' daily practice especially in the promotion of adherence to asthma therapy, the demonstration and assessment of inhalation techniques and the promotion of asthma control evaluation.

Thanks to this training programme, pharmacists should provide therapeutic education to asthmatic patients in order to help them to better manage their disease.

▶ CONCLUSION

It is widely agreed that TPE has to be provided within an educational framework of different professionals putting the patients in the centre of their own care.

Community pharmacists are particularly well placed to get involved in TPE. They are close to their patients, generally know their personal and family history, their social environment and their overall medications. Experts in medicines, community pharmacists are easily accessible and trusted by the population.

In France, TPE has been recognized officially as part of the missions of pharmacists since July 2009. It seems now essential that French community pharmacists get involved in TPE either in their daily practice either in structured programmes. The actions led by the Cespharm should support them in this mission.

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www.cespharm.fr

