

Involvement of French community pharmacists in the prevention and care of osteoporosis

A national training programme

CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Osteoporosis is a real public health issue because of its prevalence and potentially serious consequences on the quality of life and life expectancy.

In France, this disease affects 1 in 3 women and 1 in 5 men after 50 years old.

Recently, France has experienced notable changes in the management of osteoporosis:

- marketing of new drugs,
- reimbursement of bone mineral density test in certain conditions,
- wider reimbursement of certain drugs to a larger population of patients.

The pharmacist, who is an easily accessible health professional, is a major player in raising awareness of the public about this disease.

For these reasons, a national training programme has been designed to involve French community pharmacists in the prevention of osteoporosis and pharmaceutical care of osteoporotic patients.

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³ Research and information group on osteoporosis (GRIO)

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Design and distribution of specific tools for the participants

■ A technical memo (professional information)

This memo, drafted by experts in the field of osteoporosis and published by the Cespharm, aims to update the knowledge of pharmacists about osteoporosis and provide practical information at each level of the pharmacists' intervention.

■ Tools to help pharmacists in their educational role toward the public

- A leaflet to inform the public on osteoporosis
- The One-minute osteoporosis risk test prepared by the IOF, consisting of 19 simple questions designed to assess the person's bone status

Practical organization

3,000 pharmacists from 25 areas of France are expected to be trained between December 2008 and December 2009. Meetings are conducted by specialists of osteoporosis from the region.

⇒ 12 TRAINING SESSIONS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN DECEMBER 2008 AND JUNE 2009.

Assessment

A twofold assessment of this training programme has been planned:

- **Knowledge on osteoporosis and osteoporosis care:** acquired knowledge is evaluated by filling out the same questionnaire before and after each session. The questions concern osteoporosis characteristics, risk factors, osteoporosis prevention and treatments.
- **Satisfaction:** participants' satisfaction is assessed by a questionnaire filled in after each session.

⇒ THE EARLY EVALUATION DATA HIGHLIGHT THE GREAT SATISFACTION OF PHARMACISTS FOR THIS PROGRAMME.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

Partners

- French pharmacists' health education committee (CESPHARM)
- Continuing education association for French pharmacists (UTIP-FPC)
- International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF)
- Research and information group on osteoporosis (GRIO)

⇒ CONCEPTION, EXPERT EVALUATION, COORDINATION, IMPLEMENTATION, LOGISTICS.

Sponsoring

The training programme is funded 80% by the IOF and 20% by the GRIO.

Content

The objective of this programme is to provide pharmacists with a comprehensive and updated training to help them respond effectively to the public and patients with osteoporosis. It focuses on each level of the pharmacist's intervention:

- information of public on osteoporosis
- contribution to osteoporosis early detection
- education and pharmaceutical care of osteoporotic patients
- prevention of falls and fractures

The contents of this programme have been approved by the professional committee in charge of evaluating the quality of continuing education programmes for French community pharmacists.

Elle connaît ses facteurs de risque d'ostéoporose. Et vous ?

Testez vos risques sur www.grio.org ou www.iofbonehealth.org

Demandez conseil à votre pharmacien

Cespharm +
Éducation et prévention pour la santé

GRIO
Groupe de Recherche et d'Information sur l'Ostéoporose

Ordre national des pharmaciens

*"She knows her risk of osteoporosis. And you ?
Ask your pharmacist"*

CONCLUSION

For more than 10 years, the CESPHARM and its partners have developed various actions for pharmacists in the fight against osteoporosis. Especially, in 2002, a training programme on osteoporosis for French pharmacists was implemented with success. This new programme will contribute to maintain the mobilization of pharmacists and increase their competence in this field.

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