

INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT FRENCH COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS IN THE EDUCATION OF ASTHMATIC PATIENTS

CONTEXT

In the recent guidelines on asthma care, patient therapeutic education is recommended as an integral part of management of this disease. A study implemented in 1999 by the health and social education committee for French pharmacy (CESPHARM)* in 51 French pharmacies showed that the education of asthmatic patients by pharmacists resulted in improving:

- the correct use of inhaler delivery systems
- the patients' skills in managing their treatment
- their knowledge about asthma.

The CESPHARM and the continuing education association for pharmacists (UTIP-FPC) have proposed to involve and support French community pharmacists in the education of asthmatic patients. For this purpose, different actions have been initiated and planned for 2007-2008.

INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS

Relay of the World Asthma Day (May 1st, 2007)

The CESPHARM relayed to pharmacists the awareness campaign launched by the Asthma and Allergy association for the World Asthma Day.

- information of all pharmacists through the journal of the French Council of Pharmacists
- distribution of documents to pharmacists free on request: professional documents about asthma and leaflets to be given to asthmatic patients
- implementation of a window poster campaign with approximately 1,000 French community pharmacists

35,000 leaflets, 2,300 posters and 600 professional documents were distributed to pharmacists for the World Asthma Day.

Design and planning of a national training program for community pharmacists

Objectives: to involve pharmacists in the education of asthmatic patients.

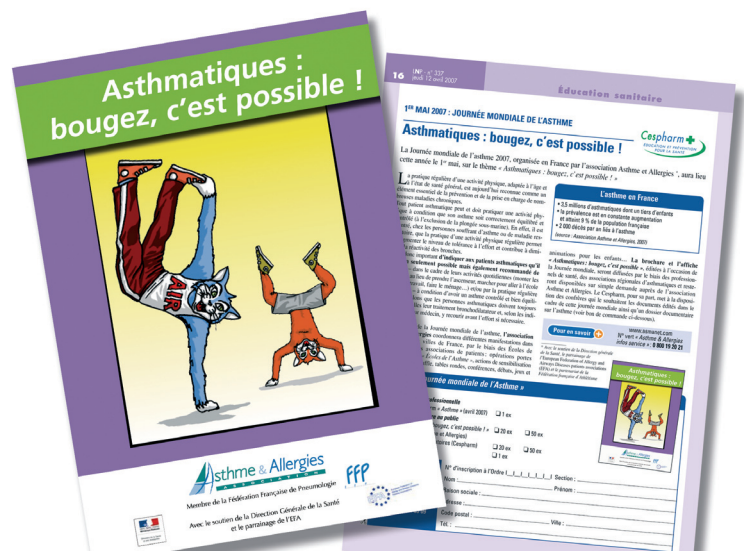
Partners:

- Health and social education committee for French pharmacy (CESPHARM)
- Continuing education association for French pharmacists (UTIP-FPC)
- French committee against respiratory diseases (CNMR)
- French-speaking society of pneumology (SPLF)
- Asthma and Allergy association

A scientific committee including asthma care experts, pharmacists and representatives of these societies has been set up in order to design and validate the contents of the training.

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**The key message of this campaign was:
"Asthmatics: you can move !"**

* F. Guillier, F. Blanchet and I. Momas: An education program in French community pharmacy for patients with asthma: a pharmaceutical care experience, 60th International Congress of FIP, August 2000 - Vienna, Austria.

Content:

Each training session (one day) will include:

- an introductory plenary lecture on asthma
- 3 interactive workshops:
 - inhalation techniques demonstration and assessment
 - assessment of asthma control
 - education of asthmatic patients (reduction in allergen exposure, asthma attack management, adherence to asthma therapy...)
- a closing plenary lecture to underline the different levels of the pharmacist's contribution to the education of asthmatic patients.

Perspectives:

1,500 pharmacists from 25 areas of France should be trained during the year 2008. The participants' satisfaction will be evaluated by a questionnaire to be filled in after each training session.

Conception and distribution of tools for pharmacists

A technical memo (professional information)

In accordance with the International and French guidelines on asthma care, a technical memo is currently being designed and will be published by the CESPARM.

This memo will update knowledge about asthma and provide practical information at each level of the pharmacists' intervention. It:

- will be distributed to the pharmacists during the training sessions
- will be sent to all French pharmacists with the journal of the French Council of Pharmacists
- will remain available free on request from the CESPARM

Practical tools to help pharmacists in the different aspects of their intervention:

- inhalation techniques demonstration and assessment

- written material describing, for each device, the proper inhaler use
- checklists to assess patients' inhalation technique
- a videotape presentation illustrating the proper use of each inhalation device

- assessment of asthma control

- written material describing the proper use of peak flow meters
- validated asthma control questionnaires

These practical tools are currently being designed.

They will be:

- distributed to the pharmacists during the training sessions
- proposed to all French pharmacists (free on request) by the CESPARM.



CONCLUSION

These complementary actions should help pharmacists to get involved in the education of asthmatic patients by giving them specific skills and introducing themselves as nearby health care professionals.

CONTACT

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