

Abstract Submission for ESCP 2017 Symposium

Public Health

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How community pharmacists can be engaged to deliver pulse rhythm checks to identify people with undiagnosed AF (Atrial Fibrillation)

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Please specify your abstract type: Descriptive abstract (for projects)

Background and Objective: Background

Global AF Aware Week is run on an annual basis by the AF Association during which a 'Know Your Pulse campaign' is held in multiple settings where the general public can receive a free manual pulse rhythm check. Settings have included GP surgeries, Hospital reception areas, Community Pharmacy and public places with a high footfall of the general public, such as railway stations and shopping malls.

In 2016, this initiative was extended to involve the active collaboration of community pharmacists. The International Pharmacists for Anticoagulation Care Taskforce (iPACT) led the initiative in the pharmacy world. The joint collaboration was held during Global AF Aware Week (21-27 November 2016).

Objectives

- To raise awareness of Atrial fibrillation (AF) and the importance of pulse rhythm checks to the general public across multiple countries
- To engage community pharmacists in Global AF Aware Week and their active participation in delivering manual pulse rhythm checks and raising awareness of AF
- To assess the feasibility of pharmacists implementing pulse checks in community pharmacy and other settings, such as nursing homes

Design: Methods

Fivemember countries of the international pharmacists anticoagulation care taskforce (IPACT) were engaged. Community Pharmacy partners were identified to deliver the campaign.

Educational and campaign materials were provided, in local language, by the Association.

A template for recording results was created and a patient referral template for the community pharmacist to send to the person's general practitioner were used.

The pulse checks were advertised by each community pharmacist prior to AF Aware Week

Results: Results

1699 pulse checks were undertaken in 56 pharmacies across 5 countries - Canada, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain and UK
77 (4.5%) people had an irregular heart rhythm detected and were referred to their clinical practitioner.

Conclusion: This preliminary collaboration project demonstrated that Community Pharmacists can deliver pulse rhythm checks to the general public to help identify people at risk of AF. The collaboration was expanded during World Heart Rhythm Week (5-9 June 2017) to community pharmacists in twelve countries with a target to deliver pulse rhythm checks to 10,000 people.

The findings of this second phase will be known in July and will be presented with this abstract.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared