

Short Article

Clinical Pharmacist Beneficiation in Countries with Highest Covid-19 Cases – A Short Communication

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On 31st December 2019, a new-born highly contagious virus had evolved as a public health crisis from the point of the outbreak. Perceiving risk of acquiring the disease almost all nations were in lockdown to break the chain of SARS-CoV-2 chain first identified in Wuhan, the mainland of China.^{1,2} As history was rewritten due to stringent lockdown around the globe to avoid the spread of COVID-19 infection. Health care workers which include pharmacist had acted as frontline workers who had served as a saviour to fight the battle against COVID-19.

According to the latest update, there are 10,321,689 confirmed cases out of which almost half of the total number of cases were from the top five affected countries includes US, Brazil, Russia, India, UK.^{3,4} The reason behind the virus being global concern is because of its high transmissibility and reproducibility by human-to-human contact or inhalation of droplets from an infected person. Symptoms include fever, cough, difficulty in breathing. Presently a study revealed that backache, rashes, and vomiting are the new symptoms caused by COVID-19.^{5,6,8} This pandemic has challenged the worldwide healthcare system due to lack of proper treatment guidelines. This paper comprises the roles and responsibilities of pharmacist during COVID-19 pandemic among top five affected countries. Government of all the affected countries have taken all possible steps to provide awareness to the general public.

This crises situation urges the collaborative work by all the health care warriors mainly by doctors, nurses, paramedical staff and the one who does not get enough attention “the Pharmacists”.⁵

Pharmacist including a clinical pharmacist, hospital pharmacist, community pharmacist, industrial pharmacist performing the stupendous job in this pandemic situation from dispensing drugs to patient counselling to flattened the curve.^{1,7}

All over the world, some families cannot afford such high fees of doctors, usually consult a pharmacist for their treatment. Also, this pandemic has hit the world so badly, that the countries which are facing a shortage of health care workers have provided the pharmacists with an opportunity

to show front line role and serve the population during the worldwide spread of disease.⁸ Also, pharmacists are helping in reducing strain on government and the nation's health care system.^{1,12}

USA

Recent studies reveal that the total novel coronavirus cases in the US are more than 2.5 million with about 12,6000 mortalities.⁹ The US is the most affected country, but its fatality rate is less than Italy, sprain, and the UK. Being a part of the health care team, the pharmacists help in reducing the burden on physicians by serving as a medium between patients and doctors. According to American Pharmacist Association (APhA) guidelines, hospital pharmacists are working on the frontline in treating COVID-19 affected patient considering 3R's – Right dose, Right patient, Right drug and providing basic information which protects the people from misconceptions in this utter situation of need with proper rationale.¹

Brazil

The second most affected country in this global health crisis with 1.3 million cases is Brazil, facing a shortage of resources.⁹ Brazil government acknowledged the importance of hospital pharmacist in diminishing medication errors, unsafe medication practice and reducing polypharmacy.

Also sorting major health issue by communicating with the patients on the telephone and reducing the risk of direct contact, telemedicine and telehealth have come out to be a blessing in this pandemic condition.¹⁰

Russia

The country with the lowest fatality rate of 1.4% and 647,849 COVID-19 affected individuals recorded so far is the United Kingdom.⁹ Pharmacist supporting direct patient care and in collaboration with doctors using their complete knowledge in drug distribution and drug information. Also, in association with other health care organizations comes out with innovative strategies to provide remote inpatient order review and dispensing, handling electronic prescription and providing a home supply of essential medicines to reduce public visit.⁷

Recently in this pandemic situation pharmacist are given the title of responder as they respond quickly to the patient's need.¹²

India

A highly populated country with 6,25,544 confirmed cases battling against COVID-19 with combined efforts of doctors, nurses and pharmacists.⁹ Pharmacists in India are keenly involved in spreading awareness towards COVID-19 among the general population.

Pharmacist of India are serving not only the Indian

population but are also ensuring the supply of drugs such as paracetamol and hydroxychloroquine to the well-developed countries like the US and UK.¹¹ Standing for the nation's support and treatment of COVID-19 similarly as worked earlier during Ebola and Zika.¹ Although India is facing a shortage of expert doctors, the Government of India should authorize a pharmacist to conduct pharmacological and therapeutic interchange which would help the pharmacist to enhance their role for the betterment of patients.¹²

United Kingdom

The fifth most affected country with 313,470 COVID-19 cases.⁹ An initial step was taken by the pharmacist of the United Kingdom and Pakistan to team up together for providing 10-step protection guidelines for the population.¹

This has enhanced the reputation of pharmacists in the world. Though their work is not always visible, most of the time pharmacist is working at the backstage and doing lifesaving interventions. Online counselling with the patients reduces the unnecessary stress and scare from COVID-19 affected patients.¹²

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