Are pharmacist's recommendations on drug compatibility applied by healthcare professionals? A randomized controlled study

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Background
In our institution, pharmacists advise healthcare professionals facing parenteral drug compatibility issues by answering questions via a hotline. Recommendations implementation and information transmission among the teams is not guaranteed. Indeed, the same questions may occur repeatedly.

Materials and Methods
✓ Hotline questions regarding parenteral drug compatibility randomized in 2 groups over 15 months (06/12-09/12):
  • phone answer only (WITHOUT) versus
  • phone answer plus a written structured document providing an infusion regimen (WITH) (Figure 1)
✓ Evaluation:
  1. Consistency of the infusion regimen with the proposition made
  2. Transmission of the information (written document at bedside and/or nurse informed)
  3. Nurses’ opinion about the document

Results
• 74 compatibility questions were analyzed (37 WITHOUT, 37 WITH) mainly from adult and pediatric intensive care units

Conclusions
Pharmacist’s recommendations on drug compatibility were applied and transmitted in 2/3 of the cases, the major barrier being the rapid evolution of prescriptions. An impact of a written document on information transmission could not be demonstrated, however this new tool was very well perceived by healthcare professionals. Implementation of information in the electronic patient record should be considered.