

PP 073

Availability of adrenaline in community pharmacies in Sri Lanka

Wijekoon CN¹, Shanika LG¹, Saheeha MSS¹

¹Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

Introduction & Objectives:

Adrenaline is the life-saving drug in anaphylaxis. There are concerns regarding availability of adrenaline for purchase by general practitioners and patients. This audit was planned to assess the availability of adrenaline in community pharmacies throughout the country.

Methods:

This was an audit done in February/March 2017, involving Rajya-Osusala and Franchise-Osusala outlets in 20 districts (other 5 districts do not have any Rajya-Osusala or Franchise-Osusala outlets). All Rajya-Osusala outlets (n=33) were included. Out of 109 Franchise-Osusala outlets, 36 were randomly selected. Data collection was done via telephone interviews with pharmacists at the selected outlets.

Results:

Response rate was 91.3% (Rajya-Osusala: 97%; Franchise-Osusala: 86.1%). Adrenaline was usually available at 65.1% (41/63) of pharmacies (Rajya-Osusala: 90.6%; Franchise-Osusala: 38.7%). None of the selected pharmacies in Puttalam, Monaragala and Trincomalee had adrenaline. It was available at the time of the study in 60.3% (38/63). Lack of demand was the reason reported by all pharmacies which did not have adrenaline. Among pharmacies where adrenaline was available, 82.9% (34/41) reported individual medical practitioners as their usual customers. Hospitals and veterinary practitioners were reported as customers by 53.7% (22/41) and 9.8% (4/41), respectively. 1:1000 adrenaline vial is the one which was available at all pharmacies which had adrenaline. None have ever had adrenaline auto-injectors; 95.2% (60/63) of participating pharmacists had never heard of auto-injectors.

Conclusion:

Adrenaline vials are available in only two thirds of the sample and none have auto-injectors. Availability of adrenaline in the community pharmacies in the study sample is not satisfactory.