

TITLE

Advantages of PDA devices to register electronic pharmacist interventions

AUTORS

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1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

The advances in the computer technology field have reached a reduction in size and weight of personal digital assistants (PDA), moreover the development of PDA specific software can help clinical professionals in the daily attendance tasks.

2. DESIGN

The implementation of software Atefarm in PDA devices (Pocket Atefarm) enables hospital pharmacists to register/visualize patients with medication related problems (MRP) and medication errors (ME) at foot of bed.

3. SETTINGS

Pocket Atefarm runs under Pocket PC 2002 and contains the full database of PC Atefarm formularies, so both platforms are totally compatible and easy to synchronize. In order to access to patient information a login and password are required for each user, so Pocket Atefarm follows the standard security rules

4. MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES

Patient information (episodes and MRP/ME) is organized by sections: anthropometric data, administrative information, MRP/ME, pharmacist intervention, patient's follow-up, clinic and economic added value of pharmacist's intervention and patient's outcomes.

5. RESULTS

The electronic register of pharmacist intervention in Pocket Atefarm has eliminated the paper formularies and the time spent in the traditional way has been reduced by 20 % (15 min/patient).

The clinical pharmacist can obtain from PDA all historic information about any patient at any time.

Pocket Atefarm helps pharmacist to register patients with MRP/ME and offers an use friendly.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The implementation of software Atefarm in PDA enables to increase the documentation of patients with MRP/ME because now these tasks are easier and therefore less time consuming.