## **Free Topics**

## **Pharmacy Service in Slovenia**

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In general, pharmacy services include:

- 1. Dispensing drugs and medical devices
- 2. Advice on selection and use of drugs and other products
- 3. Preparing "ex tempore" prescriptions for individual patients
- 4. Obtaining the assortment and quantity of drugs and medical devices relative to current needs
- 5. Storing drugs, medical devices, and other products in appropriate conditions
- 6. Replenishing stocks of drugs in accordance with dates of expiration, permission of approval, etc.
- 7. Professional eradication of expired drugs, pharmaceuticals, or other substances.

The general population, health centers, and other facilities are supplied by community pharmacies. Supplying drugs, medical devices, and other nursing care products to hospitalized patients is performed by hospital pharmacies.

Pharmacists also are trained to prepare demineralized water and other nursing care products. Some pharmacies have galenical and analytical laboratories. The galenical labs produce medicines and other products according to the appropriate regulations. Their main advantage is that they can tailor their production to the day's needs, and are capable of producing the majority of dosage forms. The production processes and drug testing are controlled by qualified specialists. Personnel in analytical laboratories are also trained in the qualitative and quantitative determination of substances not used in drugs.

When planning a reasonably cost-effective program for a catastrophic or military situation, the current healthcare system should be taken into account, as well as the practical experiences of pharmacists with special governmental stocks (SLO) in case of dire need.

Keywords: approval; communities; devices; drugs; formulation;

hospitals; laboratories; nursing care; pharmacies; production; stock; testing *Prehosp Disast Med* 2003:18:s(1)s7.

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## Development of Pharmacy Services Within the Military Health Service

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Pharmaceutical service falls into the category of healthcare as an important discipline within the structure of the state defense that provides suitable sanitary material, sanitary sets, and medications for the dispensaries in order to ensure efficient work during a peaceful period as well as during war. The importance of the pharmacy in military and combat structures changes together with the development of science and the profession, as well as with the changes in geopolitical situations. At present, the service in the Republic of Slovenia is not fully defined by laws. And neither the conditions defining its activities nor its cooperation with the authoritative institutions in the field of healthcare and pharmaceutical activity are fully satisfactory. The integration of Slovenia into NATO brings new demands in the field of organization and standardization of the pharmaceutical service.

Within the unified Military Health Service, the pharmacy service should gain the place it deserves, although forming and organizing the Military Health Service will be a long process. Therefore, the tasks to be carried out by the pharmaceutical service in the future are not yet fully defined, because it would be necessary to change the legislation in the field of healthcare in order to regulate its status.

Such a new organization will enable a wholesome level of sanitary care in compliance with the size and structure of the Slovene army whether in constant readiness for war or during wartime. It will also enable care during a state of emergency and during international operations. In addition, it will facilitate a wholesome level of healthcare of the military staff and employees of the Ministry of Defence. Cooperation in assuring high-quality healthcare during a state of emergency will be based on the internationally recognized standards within unified healthcare in the Republic of Slovenia.

Unfortunately, one cannot compare the pharmaceutical service in the Slovene Health Service with that of NATO members, mainly because of stricter legal regulations and organization of this service in these countries.

Keywords: army; health services; international operations; legislation; medical care; military; Ministry of Health; NATO; phar-

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Hospital Pharmacy in Slovenia

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Supplying drugs, medical devices, and other nursing care products to hospitalized patients is performed by hospital pharmacies.

In general, hospital pharmacy services includes:

- 1. Dispensing drugs and medical devices
- 2. Advising on selection and use of drugs and medical devices
- 3. Preparing "ex tempore" preparations for individual patients
- 4. Obtaining the assortment and quantity of drugs and medical devices regarding the current needs
- 5. Storing drugs, medical devices, and other products in appropriate conditions.
- 6. Replenishing stocks in view of expiration date, permission of approval, etc.
- 7. Professional eradication of expired drugs or other substances.

In hospital pharmacies, drugs are prepared for individual parenteral and enteral use, while some have organized laboratories for potential solutions. Some pharmacies have galenical laboratories. The galenical labs manufacture drugs or other products according to the appropriate regulations. Keywords:

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