

Importance of Introducing New Policies in Hospitals

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Abstract: Health and socio-economic developments are so closely interrelated with each other that it is impossible to achieve one without the other. The health care services organization spreads across the nation from urban to rural level. In India, health education has low priority, although it has been an integral part of all national health and family welfare programs. There is need to develop new policies in hospitals for the better health care.

Key words: Clinical Pharmacist • Drug Information • Drug Therapy • Healthcare Systems • Hospital Pharmacy • Hospital Policies

INTRODUCTION

World Health Organization (WHO) defines health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well being [1]. Lack of information is the major barrier to effective access to health services. Recently, efforts have been made by the central government to improve health through IEC activities. The main focus of IEC activities is on eradication of polio, safe pregnancy, maternal and child health, women empowerment and gender equality. A hospital, in the modern sense of the word, is an organization utilizing combinations of complex, specialized scientific equipments and functioning through a group of trained persons educated to meet the challenges of modern medical science. These are all blended together with the common objective of restoration and preservation of good health. The medical and para-medical staffs including nurses, pharmacists, laboratory technicians and dieticians are important in providing quality services to patients [2]. Hospital offers means and methods by which persons can work together in groups with the purpose of care of patient and community. It enhances the value of law and general principles of medical practice [3]. It provides a common link between the general public and policy makers. Nowadays there is need to develop policies with broader scope and

responsibility as the hospital assumes more programs (e.g. Clinical Pharmacy) and expertise. Understanding the desire of India to furnish and provide its people with the very best in medical care, the policies and procedures will develop with this goal. The philosophy of these proposed policies are to provide personnel and staff with a written description of the activities and procedures relating to the safe and effective use of drugs within the hospital. The main objective of these will be to provide accurate and efficient methods of providing medications and intravenous solutions to the patients. This could be achieved by implementing a total Unit Dose Drug Distribution system and a Drug Information Center for the information. In India, healthcare is provided by both private and public sectors. It is the responsibility of these sectors to establish healthcare institutions accessible to all sections of the population in all parts of the country, to provide diagnostic and treatment facilities. Density of health care workers in the country is a little over 8 per 10,000 populations.

Allopathic physicians comprise 31 % of the work force, followed by nurses and midwives (30%), pharmacists (11%), practitioners of traditional systems of medicine (9%) and others. India has made small but appreciable progress in reducing infant and maternal mortality rates and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and

other diseases. There is this pressing need to improve access to quality medicines and make them more affordable to the masses. The government has initiated a host of programs including setting up of generic stores that would provide generic unbranded medicines [4].

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