

Pharmacy Division

Introduction

The Pharmacy Division provides services such as the warehousing and dispensing of drugs, the preparation of injections (including aseptic mixtures), the collection and dissemination of drug information and the providing patients' guidance for proper use of drugs. The division's services have improved in response to the hospital's goal of promoting a higher quality of medical care and practice. A state-of-the-art computerized system and other pharmacy-related equipment ensure quality control and inventory management, promote the proper use of drugs, and enhance the efficiency and quality of our services.

Routine Activities

The hospital's drug inventory is checked by using the computer system, and the division acts as a secretary to the in-hospital pharmaceutical affairs committee responsible for the adoption of drugs.

As part of its fundamental work, the Pharmacy Division prepares and dispenses oral and topical medicine and injections for individual patients. We conduct aseptic mixtures of injectable chemotherapy agents for all outpatients and some inpatients, and we are responsible for the aseptic preparation of intravenous hyperalimentation (IVH) for inpatients.

The importance of providing drug information to patients has been widely acknowledged. Division pharmacists visit inpatients and give advice on taking medicine, focusing especially on pain control with morphine etc, and they participate in the palliative care support team. Outpatient drug consultation concerning guidance in the proper use of opioids is also given in a "drug consulting room".

Pharmacists collect, compile, and maintain a database of drug information and distribute pertinent information to the medical staff. Drug information is disseminated throughout the hospital by paper

distribution and/or on the in-hospital computer network, quickly in the case of emergency safety information from the Ministry of Health , Labour & Welfare and in a timely manner in the case of general drug information.

Pharmacists individualize dosage regimens for specified drugs such as aminoglycosides or vancomycin based on both measured blood concentrations and pharmacokinetics in order to maximize the efficacy and minimize adverse reactions.

The inventory control and handling of new investigative drugs are conducted in the Pharmacy Division and also monitored by the drug sponsors, in accordance with GCP regulations.

There are educational activities such as providing training course for university students of pharmacy, participating in multi-institutional pharmaceutical TV conference.

Research Activities

The pharmacy division is engaged in the study of improving pain control by gathering opinions and comments in questionnaires regarding the usefulness of guidance materials provided by the pharmacy.

Systems and Devices

(1)The pharmacy division systems linked to the ordering system

The physician's order is conducted through the computerized ordering system. The prescription ordering system links to the medicine package printing system combined with function of providing drug information. The medicine package information and also easy-to-understand explanations and instruction for proper use of drugs such as efficacy and effectiveness, precaution and guidance, symptoms at the early stage of adverse reactions are automatically printed out for patients on entry of prescription

ordering.

The injection ordering system links to the automatic "picking system" device, and this linkage ensures that injections are set properly and efficiently. And this injection ordering system contains the additional function("regimen ordering system for anti-neoplastics") which makes it possible to check the dose as well as the interval of chemotherapy, and this function supports the proper and smooth ordering operation.

(2)The pharmacy homepage

The pharmacy homepage is established and updated monthly. During information such as current safety information, newly adopted drugs, Q&A, and recent articles are available for medical staffs on the in-hospital computer network.

(3)The touch-panel device for providing drug information to patients

Patients can use the touch-panel device situated at the pharmacy counter to see or print out drug information at their convenience.

● T. Kunieda ●

Number of Prescriptions			2002	2003
1) Oral and topical preparations				
Prepared in hospital pharmacy			112,168	119,706
Inpatients			96,757	101,063
Outpatients			15,411	18,643
Taken to outside pharmacies			55,835	53,289
(% of prescription filled outside)			78.40	74.11
2) Injections				
Inpatients			300,914	297,637
Outpatients			46,381	50,062

Investigational Drugs			2002	2003
IVH preparation			2,880	3,187
Anticancer Drugs			22,129	23,560
Others			19,422	21,694

House Preparations			2002	2003
Sterilized			127	97
Nonsterilized			187	240

Amounts of Drugs Consumed				
	2002	(%)	2003	(%)
Total	4,118,526	100.00	4,748,600	100.00
Internal medicines	259,504	6.30	346,415	7.30
External	56,173	1.36	55,015	1.16
Injection	2,742,745	66.60	3,058,797	64.41
Narcotics	155,770	3.78	164,236	3.46
Blood	323,832	7.86	396,380	8.35
X-ray	416,730	10.12	552,342	11.63
RI	93,548	2.27	108,377	2.28
Others	70,220	1.71	67,038	1.41

Unit:1000 yen

Investigational Drugs			FY2001	FY2002
Newly registered			36	28
Ongoing study			35	59