

I. Background

The Japanese Government has a goal to introduce a formal educational programme on management of minor ailments in community pharmacy.

II. Aims

In Australia, pharmacist have the responsibility for supporting consumers in the management of a broad range of minor ailments. This responsibility includes checking for interactions with prescription medicines, selecting clinically appropriate non-prescription medicine/s and assisting in patient self-care. This is supported by a variety of educational programmes which may be offered at university level (undergraduate and postgraduate) or via professional organisations such as the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

III. Methods

In November 2011, we offered a comprehensive training programme for Japanese pharmacists on the management of minor ailments based on the training available to Australian pharmacy students and graduates. The programme was conducted by Australian lecturers from The University of Sydney and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. A process evaluation of this programme was undertaken. A variety of purpose designed training materials were translated into Japanese for this programme.

IV. Results

The workshop was held over 3 days. A process evaluation of the workshop was conducted in which participants completed a survey on the usefulness of the training and commented on the challenges in creating a similar Japanese version of the education programme.

V. Summary / Conclusions

The workshop facilitated the development of professional pharmacy skills in participants on the management of minor ailments. However, participants felt that more detailed training on case studies was required. Additional activities and strategies are envisaged for further developing an education program in collaboration with Australia.