



The Burden of Medicines

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Message from the Guest Editor

This Special Issue focuses on the burden of medicines on patients' lives and the role of pharmacists in helping to reduce that burden.

Drug therapy remains to be the most used intervention to prevent illness, reduce symptoms, and treat disease. Unfortunately, medicines are associated with numerous adverse effects that impact on the quality of life and wellbeing of patients. Non-pharmacological approaches to control disease are preferred over drug treatment, but unfortunately these are sometimes insufficient on their own. Patients on multiple drug therapy (polypharmacy) and those with comorbidities are at high risk of drug-related problems. However, pharmacists could help in reducing the burden of drug therapy through the application of pharmaceutical care (PC). With its patient-centred philosophy of practice, the full application of PC should help patients make the best out of their medicines. Given that patients' perspectives on issues related to the use of medicines are different from those of health care providers, more attention is now drawn toward assessing the burden of drug therapy from the perspective of the patient.





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