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Selling Non-prescription Drugs in General Sales Stores in Lithuania

Introduction.

Pharmacy specialists retain a strong control of prescribed and non-prescribed drugs (e.g. France) but in countries like the Netherlands, Poland and others selected non-prescribed drugs may be sold in General Sales Stores (GSS). Currently one of the main topics in healthcare system in Lithuania is the possibility of selling non-prescription drugs (or OTC) in GSS.

Aim:

To analyze the opinion of selling of non-prescription drugs in GSS in Lithuania from public and pharmacy specialists points of view.

Tasks:

To collect surveys from public and pharmacy specialists;
To compare with the results of PMR Research company's survey, carried in Poland in 2011.

Design of Research.

Two different questionnaires (for public and for pharmacy specialists) were prepared. After collecting the data, statistical analysis were performed.

Results.

Most of the pharmacy specialists disagree with selling of non-prescribed drugs in GSS while public opinion is less rigid, but most of the responders agree that they would lack a consultation from a specialist. Nevertheless, as one of the main advantages public sees the ability to buy non-prescribed drugs in GSS in emergency cases while in the survey of PMR Research it was the least important priority.

Conclusions:

Public is more likely than pharmacy specialists to agree with selling non-prescribed drugs in GSS. Results of our public survey have similarities with PMR Research survey.