

## Analysis on Pharm.D in India

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### Short Communication

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### ABSTRACT

The Pharm.D program in India was introduced in 2008 by Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) under the legal framework of Pharm.D Regulation 2008. As approved by the Government of India, Ministry of Health, letter No.V.13013/1/2007-PMS, dated the 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2008 and notified by the Pharmacy Council of India. Pharm.D (Doctor of Pharmacy) meaning in New Latin Pharmaciae Doctor is a professional doctorate degree in pharmacy. In some countries, it is a first professional degree, and a prerequisite for licensing to exercise the profession of pharmacist. It gives a direct doctorate degree after five years of college and one year internship in a 300 bedded hospital. In this article we tried to focus on the current scenario of Pharm.D in India.

### INTRODUCTION

Pharm D (Doctor), not to be confused with D. Pharm (Diploma) is a Doctorate degree, which is highly integrated and in-depth course on clinical pharmacy. The Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) is a professional doctorate in pharmacy. In some countries, it is a first professional degree and a prerequisite for licensing to practice the profession of pharmacy or to become a clinical pharmacist. The first batch of Pharm.D post baccalaureate students graduated (after B.Pharm) in August 2011 and 1st regular batch graduated in June 2014 [1]. The Pharm.D degree requires five years of classroom and hospital based practical, followed by one year of internship training in 300 bedded hospitals in addition to ongoing practicals and research project. It is clarified to all universities that Pharm.D is a post graduate degree and passing students can directly register for Ph.D From 2012. Pharm.D is approved by PCI only and MCI do not recognize this course in India [2]. After the Amendment in August 2019, it is compulsory for hospitals to develop DIC (Drug Information Centre). This DIC will be headed by a Pharm.D Holder. Another Cadre is created known as Clinical Pharmacist. The only and minimum required Educational qualification for this cadre is Pharm.D the Clinical Pharmacist must also assist the physician and medical representative to promote the wellness and correct use of medications [3]. The Pharm.D degree in India is available in 2 stages a 6-year course after the 12<sup>th</sup> and a 3- year post baccalaureate degree program after completion of bachelor of pharmacy degree [4]. The

mission of the profession is to improve public health through safe, effective and appropriate use of medications, health improvement, and disease prevention services.

## DISCUSSION

The following role that Pharm.D students perform in the hospital are:

- **Patient Counseling Services:** It bridge between the doctor and the patient It provides the exchange of information necessary to assess a patient's health condition, implement treatment of medical problems, and evaluate the effects of treatment on a patient's quality of life.
- **Pharmaceutical Care Services:** Pharmaceutical care signifies a shift of practice in pharmacy from being drug product-oriented to the one that is patient-oriented to achieve definite outcomes that improves patients' quality of life.
- **Drug Information Centre (DIC):** The purpose of drug information center is to provide, accurate, relevant and drug information to the patient and healthcare professionals related to the drug safety aspects by answering their call regarding the all critical problems on dug information, their uses and their side effects.
- **Therapeutic Drug monitoring:** It is the clinical practice of measuring specific drugs at designated intervals to maintain a constant concentration in a patient's bloodstream, thereby optimizing individual dosage regimens.
- **Ward Rounds:** They participate in the teaching and unit chief ward rounds where their main responsibility is to provide consultation to the matters pertaining to the patient's drug therapy.

### Goals of Pharm.D Program

- Provide students with advanced knowledge and techniques in clinical related and outcomes research.
- Develop student's ability to effectively communicate scientific information both orally and in writing to provide drug information and education.
- Provide a challenging and innovative learning environment to prepare the students for further advanced graduate or professional programs or scientific careers in the clinical pharmacy and pharmacy practice.
- Develop the students' ability to engage in life-long learning and exhibit professionalism with the highest ethical standards.
- To provide patient care in cooperation with patients, doctors, and other members of an inter-professional health care team based upon sound therapeutics principles and evidence-based data, taking into account relevant legal, ethical, social cultural, economic and professional issues, emerging technologies, and evolving biomedical, pharmaceutical, social, or behavioral or administrative, and clinical sciences that may impart therapeutic outcomes.

After completion Pharm.D graduates can opt for a PhD programme. The scope for an aspirant to work abroad is very promising in the Pharm.D course [5]. Working together with physicians, pharmacists increase responsibility for medication therapy management.

- Clinical Pharmacist
- Hospital Pharmacy Director
- Hospital Staff Pharmacist
- Pharmacist
- Pharmacist in Charge
- Drug Experts
- Drug Interaction Specialists
- Medical Writer
- Drug Writer
- Lecturer
- Drug Advisor
- Clinical Research Organizations (CRO)
- Pharmacovigilance
- R and D
- Drug inspector

## CONCLUSION

As we know it is a newly launched curriculum in India, it will take time to get it well established. Pharm D candidates need to work hard and get recognized in the society for patient-care by clinical pharmacy services. The Pharm.D graduates hold the sound knowledge of therapeutics, pharmacology, pathophysiology, microbiology. They have to create a rapport with other healthcare providers such as physicians, nurses, and also with patients. As a summary, it can be expected that the Pharm D would play a major role in Indian health care system in future. This course will give an opportunity prominently in Indian health care system.

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