

Publication

A multinational cross-sectional survey of the management of patient medication adherence by European healthcare professionals.

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OBJECTIVES:To examine which interventions healthcare professionals use to support patients with taking medicines and their perceptions about the effectiveness of those actions.DESIGN:Cross-sectional multinational study. SETTING: Online survey in Austria, Belgium, England, France, Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Switzerland.PARTICIPANTS:A total of 3196 healthcare professionals comprising doctors (855), nurses (1047) and pharmacists (1294) currently registered and practising in primary care and community settings. MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES: PRIMARY OUTCOME: Responses to the question 'I ask patients if they have missed any doses of their medication' for each profession and in each country. Secondary outcome: Responses to 50 items concerning healthcare professional behaviour to support patients with medication-taking for each profession and in each country.RESULTS:Approximately half of the healthcare professionals in the survey ask patients with longterm conditions whether they have missed any doses of their medication on a regular basis. Pharmacists persistently report that they intervene less than the other two professions to support patients with medicines. No country effects were found for the primary outcome. CONCLUSIONS: Healthcare professionals in Europe are limited in the extent to which they intervene to assist patients having long-term conditions with medication adherence. This represents a missed opportunity to support people with prescribed treatment. These conclusions are based on the largest international survey to date of healthcare professionals' management of medication adherence.

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