Maternity Outpatient Pharmacist – Evaluation of Impact.
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Background:
Historically, clinical pharmacy services to maternity patients has focused on patients admitted to hospital. The clinical pharmacist role in maternity services is evolving and evidence suggests that pharmacists also have a role to play in the outpatient setting with the provision of medication information during pregnancy and breast-feeding.

Aim:
To investigate the impact of a pharmacist on the management and care of patients attending the maternity outpatient department clinic.

Methods:
This was an observational study conducted with a cross-section of patients receiving antenatal care at the maternity outpatient department. Data was collected over 9 weeks between February and April 2020. All identified medication related problems (MRPs) were categorised and risk-rated using the Society of Hospital Pharmacists Australia probability matrix and guidelines for documenting clinical activities. Consumer and hospital health professional satisfaction surveys were developed and distributed.

Results:
MRPs identified during pharmacist consultations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medication optimisation</td>
<td>47%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medication selection</td>
<td>38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adherence</td>
<td>12%</td>
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A total of 153 patients received a new consultation with the MOPD pharmacist during the study period, with 2 in 5 patients, (41%) having one or more medication-related problem.

One or more queries regarding medications or medical conditions were raised by 30% of patients (n=46).

Feedback from the surveys showed that 96% (46/48) of consumers agreed that they were satisfied with the overall pharmacist service. Of the MOPD staff members who completed the feedback survey, 97% (29/30) agreed that they found the implementation of the outpatient pharmacist valuable.

Conclusions:
This study has confirmed the prevalence of MRPs among antenatal women and has found a positive impact through identification and resolution of MRPs by consultation with a MOPD pharmacist. Benefits of the service were also evident through patient and staff feedback. Data obtained from this study will be valuable to develop guidelines, policy, key performance indicators and expectations or training for pharmacists wishing to advance their role in this specialist field.

References: