

The Pivotal Role of Community Pharmacists for Interprofessional Communication to Coordinate Oral Healthcare into Integrative Medicine Implementation

Ching-Yi Hsu*

Pharmacist, Member of Taiwan Pharmacist Association, Taiwan

***Corresponding Author:** Ching-Yi Hsu, Pharmacist, Member of Taiwan Pharmacist Association, Taiwan.

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Background

It proclaims that the incentive of this essay is aim to encourage “Community Pharmacist” for interprofessional communication from interdisciplinary insights for much better dental healthcare all around the world. Furthermore, it will not only limit in general medicine or family medicine in general healthcare. In fact, regular dental check and diagnosis record would be great valuable tracer for diseases prevention [1] as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) [2] requested. It has been well-understood that there are some valuable signals could lead much better healthcare from oral check¹, why not work for it proactively as the pivotal roles in community pharmacy?

Introduction

World Health Organization (WHO) defined oral health as “a state of being free from chronic mouth and facial pain, oral and throat cancer, oral infection and sores, periodontal (gum) disease, tooth decay, tooth loss, and other diseases and disorders that limit an individual’s capacity in biting, chewing, smiling, speaking, and psychosocial wellbeing” [3]. And words cited from WHO policy basis mentioned “Despite great achievements in oral health of populations globally, problems still remain in many communities all over the world - particularly among under-privileged groups in developed and developing countries. Dental caries and periodontal diseases have historically been considered the most important global oral health burdens” [4].

Universal health coverage (UHC) of health system and social-economic sustainable development

UHC was defined as “all individuals and communities receive the health services they need without suffering financial hardship” [5] in WHO. Particularly, this perception is also related to several of SDGs [2] for “Good Health and Well-being” in United Nations (UN) as healthcare professionals. Shall we encourage innovative oral healthcare from interdisciplinary communications with dentists to advance integrative medical service for patient’ systemic healthcare? Before that, for international/national health well-fare policy makers or key opinions’ leaders would be another vital essential strength/power to support for interdisciplinary training of pharmaceutical education transformation by restructuring the upstream healthcare scheme. The improvement of oral healthcare would enhance the strength of national production by workforce optimized [6], for policy makers and governmental officers, this would inspire another significant economic landscape development incubated in the value of healthcare profession brightened by national healthcare scheme. Only to strike multiple wins for patients among officers, healthcare professions and other stakeholders; it would lead to well-control national medical expenditures which ever lost silently in other phenotypes for healthcare request. As the prior passage mentioned national economical limitation and public health literacy improvement would bring great influence on public hygiene resulting to national healthcare expenditure fluctuation. For example, if we consider from self-care, and integrative medicine for cost-effective oral healthcare improvement in pharmaceutical development, it would lead the proper expenditure control through interprofessional cooperation, would it?

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Roles of community pharmacist from SDGs to dental caries and periodontal disease for integrative medicine implementation

With the outlook of what could we work out from SDGs to oral healthcare as community pharmacists or pharmaceutical scientists? In the past perception of modern medical theory, dental caries and periodontal disease, these two diseases may be recognized being relevant to bone, and connective tissue; however, not only modern medical research [7] but also traditional Chinese medical theory [1], they have both stated some healthy issue suspiciously in other organs and connective tissues, such as kidney, stomach, gastrointestinal, and blood circulations which would result from some problems of endocrine, digestive processes, metabolite pathway and overall physical circulations. In 2017, “sugars and dental caries” [8], it revealed, “Dental caries” [4] that is an expensive disease which consumes 5 - 10% of healthcare budgets in industrialized countries, and people who have a higher intake of free sugars would get decaying much easily than usual. In addition, according to one of top 10 key facts [9] cited from WHO, it reported that “the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016 estimated that oral diseases affected half of the world’s population (3.58 billion people) with dental caries (tooth decay) in permanent teeth being the most prevalent condition assessed.” Thus, it has implied the essential role of community pharmacist for this issue again. The other oral problem is “periodontal disease,” [4] which would worse lead to edentulousness. It was also regarded as “the 11th most prevalent disease globally” reported in the top 10 key facts [9]. In the end, as most dentists well understood, if patients don’t aware its progression. Except that, for patients with diabetes mellitus, oral status would be another crucial indicator for healthcare control [7].

Novel knowledge is rooting in interprofessional communications, cooperation, and coordination

Pharmaceutical scientists and clinical professionals would no longer limit their researches within the local symptoms happened of patients, but also need to proactively check physical functions of other relevant organs simultaneously. For instance, bone density of adult, check daily dietary and digestive functions in gastrointestinal, metabolic syndrome and other medications etc. by community pharmacists compiling data, and then proactively inform doctors/physicians, ultimately approaching to patients’ healthcare. As the theme of 2017 PSWC [10] “Future Medicines for One World -Systems approaches to drug discovery, development and clinical usage”, which meant to provide much better healthcare for public. It’s time to arouse interdisciplinary connections by crossing functional communications for patient’ medical history study, and to digitalize individual health-check development for personal medical service [6]. Further, for healthcare profession, it may need to consider how to improve and update patient’ oral healthcare literacy, such as cooperating with community pharmacy, and ally with doctors who expertise in metabolic syndrome through different characteristic workshops/conferences. In modern healthcare products, there were some toothpaste for fluoride added to reduce the prevalence of dental caries, and anti-sensitive formula for oral sensory improvement with traditional and complementary medicine applications. Eventually, all of us never hope ourselves to become disable in partial physical functions in aging progression, so it is imperative need for all by tailoring personal healthcare to lead much better quality of life individually would be an essential unmet component in oral healthcare. This is also the most motives for this essay.

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