A proposal based on risk management and collaboration for facing drug shortages in Colombia

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Introduction

In Colombia like in other countries (1,3) there have been essential medicines shortages explained by different causes. In some cases this situation has not only caused bigger expenses in Colombia’s health system but also has affected the patient’s treatment.

Other cases are just warnings to be confirmed or they require actions and stakeholders participation in order to avoid a shortage.

To develop national approach to face this problem a risk management strategy based on collaboration between agents and government was designed for being implemented by the Health Department.

Methodology

An initial diagnosis of drug shortage was done over the Medicines Supply Network (MSN), in order to establish the problem importance and also dismiss situations considered as shortages. About 32 cases were studied, there were identified causes, risk severity and possible solutions. Then, a risk model was applied according to the National Risk Management Standard based on the Australian Standard ANZS 4360:2004 (5). Finally a framework was developed for the Colombian Health System.

Results

During the last 2 years Colombia, has faced different issues related with medicines shortages that have made authorities to review: which situations must be considered real shortages?, its causes, responsibilities, and solutions. (3)

Context

International: FDA, Health Canada, EMA, ASHP, FIP
National: Stake holder’s Communications and standards (decrel 1011/2006)

Identify risks

- Treatment´s Inferior Outcomes
- None alternative treatment
- Economic Impact on Health Disease
- Progression
- Patient dying
- Medication Error

Analyze risks

Treat risk

1. Creation of National Committee for Shortages
2. Establishment a Networking
3. Monitoring process and
4. Working on logistic process
5. Review intellectual property agreements.

Colombia should guarantee the health access; the MSN is highly fragmented and very complex. So that, it was necessary to establish and manage a National plan for drug shortages based on risk management with focus on communication strategies through supply network.

Conclusions

The shortages at Colombia presents the same behavior described in other countries, also there is a need to improve supply management for medications related to malaria, tuberculosis, leishmaniasis. And others.

The National shortages plan is based on collaboration, involves government offices such as: National Health Surveillance Agency (INVIMA), the Foreign Trade Office, The Cancer National Institute, in this way other supply network agents must collaborate generating early warnings about supply problems due to the offer, in order to find early solutions. Communication and information sharing is fundamental for the strategy. The plan also includes changes in legal issues ...

Graphic No.1. Risk Management Plan for Colombia’s Shortages Based on : (5)

Fig No.1. Risk Management Plan for Colombia’s Shortages Based on : (5)

Fig No.2. A Networking for facing medicines shortages at Colombia

Bibliography

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