

Background

Different studies conclude that pharmaceutical care and clinical pharmacy are more advanced in Quebec than in France. Are there any differences between the training and the practice of hospital pharmacy technicians in France and in Quebec?

Purpose

The main objective was to describe and compare the training of hospital pharmacy technicians in France and Quebec. The secondary objective was to describe and compare the activity of hospital pharmacy technicians in France and Quebec.

Material and Methods

This is a descriptive comparative study. A list of relevant themes was established by consensus after a review of key websites and literature. A panel of a French hospital pharmacy resident, a French hospital pharmacist, a French pharmacy technician and one Quebec teaching hospital pharmacist was organized. Similarities and differences for each theme were identified and discussed.

Results

25 themes related to training

Similarities

Programs established by the Ministry of Education

Pharmacy Technicians participate in the education process

Name of program

Brevet professional of pharmacy technician + Diploma of Pharmacy Hospital Technician (FR)

Diploma in Vocational Studies in Pharmacy Technical Assistance (QC)

Total hours of training

4660 yours (FR)
1230 yours (QC)

Validation of the diploma

Instructions at national level (FR)
School dependant (QC)

Continuous training

Obligatory (FR)
Non-obligatory (QC)

Differences

One year for specialisation in hospital pharmacy (FR)

Creation date
1946 and 2001 for specialisation (FR)
1987 (QC)

Duration of programs

3 years (FR)
1 year (QC)

Theoretical learning hours

1460 hours (FR)
1020 hours (QC)

Hospital internship

700 hours (FR)
210 hours (QC)

Evolution

Senior health manager (FR)

Annual scholar fees

0€ / years (FR)
195€ /years (QC)

10 themes related to hospital pharmacy practice

Diploma

require to work in hospitals

Responsibilities

Pharmacy technicians contribute to the drug supply chain activities from the procurement to the compounding and dispensation

Responsibilities

Médical Devices, Sterilization, Blood products, Advice to patients (FR)

Drug prescription seizure, medication reconciliation, Support for the decentralized clinical pharmacist in health services (QC)

Delegation

No regulatory framework (FR)

Staffs per department

24,8 (QC)

Professional title in the legislation

Pharmacy Hospital technician (FR)
No title reserved (QC)

Conclusion

This comparative descriptive study highlights more differences regarding training and more similarities regarding the activities of hospital pharmacy technicians between France and Quebec.

A better understanding of these similitudes and differences may contribute to reciprocal improvement of these programs and favour exchanges between both countries.