Developing the role of the specialist pharmacist in the renal and transplant clinic

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Introduction

Transplant and nephrology patients have complex morbidities and pharmaceutical care needs and are reliant on numerous medications to maintain their health and well-being. The role of the specialist renal pharmacist has developed over the last decade and is now a well-established member of the MDT on inpatient wards for most UK renal centres. The need for specialist pharmacist services to be provided in the outpatient clinic has developed over the last decade to manage increasingly complex drug therapies and more recently, the repatriation of immunosuppression prescribing. A specialist pharmacist has been established in the renal and transplant clinic at Hammersmith Hospital for ten years and the services provided by the clinic pharmacist have evolved during this time.

Conclusion

The specialist clinic pharmacist is now a well-established member of the multidisciplinary team caring for renal and transplant patients at Imperial NHS Trust. The role is highly valued by staff and the patients and continues to evolve and grow. Clinical practice research is integrated into the pharmacist's role with a focus on improving clinical outcomes in kidney transplant patients through pharmacist led medication nonadherence identification and support. The research had been presented nationally and internationally and led to collaborative work with other institutions to develop pharmacist led medication adherence research in renal and transplant patients