

Different Committees in the Hospital

Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (P&T Committee)

- The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee is a multidisciplinary body within a hospital or healthcare institution that is responsible for managing the safe and effective use of medications.
- It serves as a liaison between the pharmacy department, medical staff, nursing, and hospital administration.

Objectives of the P&T Committee

The primary objectives of the P&T Committee include:

A. Formulary Management:

- Develop and maintain an approved list of medications (hospital formulary) that meets the therapeutic needs of the patients.

B. Ensure Rational Drug Use:

- Promote the safe, effective, and economical use of medicines.

C. Policy Development:

- Establish policies for drug selection, procurement, storage, prescribing, dispensing, and administration.

D. Drug Evaluation:

- Review and evaluate new drugs for inclusion in the formulary based on efficacy, safety, and cost.

E. Monitor Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs):

- Implement pharmacovigilance systems and evaluate reported ADRs and medication errors.

F. Antimicrobial Stewardship:

- Promote judicious use of antibiotics to minimize resistance and optimize therapy.

G. Educational Role:

- Educate healthcare professionals on appropriate drug use, guidelines, and protocols.

Composition of the P&T Committee

- The committee typically includes representatives from various departments.

Compositions may vary depending on the size and type of hospital:

1. Chairperson (e.g., CMO or senior physician)

- Provides leadership and makes final decisions.

2. Clinical Pharmacist / Chief Pharmacist

- Offers expert insights into pharmacotherapy and formulary management.

3. Physicians (various specialties)

- Represent clinical departments such as medicine, surgery, etc., bringing specialty-specific perspectives.

4. Nursing Representative

- Provides input on practical aspects of drug administration.

5. Hospital Administrator

- Ensures that the committee's work aligns with institutional policies and operational feasibility.

6. Microbiologist / Pathologist (optional)

- Advises on antimicrobial use and supports diagnostic guidance.

7. Quality Assurance or Risk Manager

- Reviews medication safety, regulatory compliance, and institutional drug policies.

Functions of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee

The key functions of the P&T Committee include:

1. Formulary Management

- Approving or removing medications from the formulary.
- Reviewing and updating the formulary based on clinical needs and evidence.

2. Drug Evaluation

- Assessing new drugs, dosage forms, and therapeutic alternatives.
- Comparing them with current formulary drugs in terms of efficacy, safety, and cost.

3. Policy and Procedure Development

- Creating protocols for prescribing high-risk or high-cost medications.
- Establishing guidelines for drug storage, handling, and administration.

4. Drug Use Evaluation

- Performing Drug Utilization Reviews (DUR) to identify inappropriate prescribing or usage patterns.

- Monitoring compliance with clinical guidelines.

5. Education and Training

- Providing healthcare staff with up-to-date information on drug therapies.
- Issuing bulletins and conducting training on formulary changes and medication safety.

6. Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring

- Collecting and analyzing data on ADRs and medication errors.
- Recommending preventive strategies and corrective actions.

7. Cost Control

- Identifying cost-saving opportunities through therapeutic substitution and formulary restriction.
- Encouraging the use of generic medications when appropriate.

Hospital Formulary

Definition:

- A hospital formulary is an official, continually updated list of approved medicines and related information that are selected based on evidence of efficacy, safety, quality, and cost-effectiveness, for use within a specific hospital or healthcare institution.
- It serves as a guidance document for prescribers, pharmacists, and healthcare staff to ensure the rational and standardized use of medicines.

Procedure for Development of Hospital Formulary

The process of formulary development is typically carried out by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee through a structured approach:

1. Establishing the P&T Committee

- Include physicians, clinical pharmacists, microbiologists, nurses, and administrators.
- Define roles and responsibilities for drug selection and review.

2. Drug Evaluation and Selection

- Review each drug based on:
 - Therapeutic efficacy
 - Safety profile
 - Cost-effectiveness
 - Availability

- Patient needs
- Use of evidence-based guidelines and clinical trial data.

3. Classification of Drugs

- Organize drugs into therapeutic categories (e.g., antibiotics, antihypertensives, analgesics).
- Include both essential and supportive medications.

4. Policy Formulation

- Define rules for prescribing, dispensing, and substituting drugs.
- Establish drug restriction policies and prescribing levels (general, specialist, restricted use).

5. Drafting the Formulary Document

- Include:
 - Generic name and brand names
 - Dosage forms and strengths
 - Indications and contraindications
 - Administration routes
 - Precautions and adverse effects

6. Review and Approval

- Submit the draft to the P&T Committee for review.
- Final approval by the hospital’s medical superintendent or authority.

7. Periodic Review and Updating

- Conduct regular reviews (e.g., annually or semi-annually).
- Add or delete drugs based on new evidence, resistance patterns, or availability.

Use of Hospital Formulary

The hospital formulas are utilized in several ways across the healthcare system:

A. Clinical Use

- Prescribers use it to select appropriate medications aligned with hospital policy.
- Promotes rational prescribing and avoids therapeutic duplication.

B. Pharmacy Operations

- Helps pharmacists maintain and manage inventory of approved drugs.



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