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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Pharmacists Counselling of Pregnant Women: Web-based, Comparative Study between Serbia and Norway

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Abstract

Objectives

To describe, compare and evaluate whether pharmacists in two European countries, Serbia and Norway, give appropriate counselling for common ailments in pregnancy.

Design

A cross sectional, web-based study. Participants and Settings: A study was conducted among Serbian and Norwegian pharmacists during two four-month study periods in 2012 respectively 2014. Participants were recruited through postal and electronic invitation facilitated by several pharmacy chains. Participation in the study was anonymous and voluntary.

Measurement instrument

Pharmacists were presented with the questionnaire that included five scenarios (back pain, heavy legs, nausea, cold and constipation in pregnancy) and were asked to give their advice about use of medicines, supplements (e.g. herbal products, vitamins, minerals), non-pharmacological treatment and referral to physician in each condition.

Findings

In total, 276 pharmacists, 119 in Serbia and 157 in Norway, accepted to participate in the study. Recommendation about medicines use ranged from 32% (heavy legs) to 71% (back pain) in Serbia and from 3% (heavy legs) to 92% (constipation) in Norway. Several

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