

**Title: The pharmacist's role in dementia care: a perspective from thailand**

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**Abstract:**

Background: The pharmacist's role in a multidisciplinary team for dementia care is still rare recently especially in Thailand. One hospital firstly started to involve a pharmacist in the home visit team to care for persons with dementia. Aims: To explore how a pharmacist plays roles in the multidisciplinary team for dementia care. Methods: Data was collected by observation and the in-depth interview during one month period of November 2013 at Crown Prince Kuchinarai Hospital, Kalasin province, Thailand. Data was transcribed verbatim and analysed by content analysis. Results: The pharmacist was as part of a home visit team which consisted of a nurse, physical therapists, a pharmacy assistant and a pharmacist. There were 3 stages for dementia care: before patients accessing to hospital services, after patients accessing to hospital services and palliative care as the final stage. In the first stage, the pharmacist had to screen patients for dementia and evaluate patients at home. Later, the pharmacist worked as a case manager in co-ordination with other hospital staffs. Another role of the pharmacist was looking for the main caregiver in patient's family for caring in drug administration. And also the pharmacist had to design dosage regimens and arrange them to be easier administered for patients. Finally, the pharmacist evaluated the necessity of medication in palliative care. Conclusion: Since no any physician got involved in a home visit team, the pharmacist plays a major role in dementia care as disease screening, patient evaluation, a case manager, designing of dosage regimen and medication use evaluation. These new roles of the pharmacist should be promoted to other settings in Thailand.