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Course Name : D. Pharm

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Topic Name : Different Committees in the Hospital

Hospitals typically have a variety of committees, each focused on specific aspects of healthcare delivery and hospital operations. Here are some common committees found in hospitals:

1. Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee

- **Purpose:** Manages the hospital's formulary, reviews medication use policies, and ensures safe and effective use of medications.
- **Members:** Pharmacists, physicians, nurses, and administrators.

2. Infection Control Committee

- **Purpose:** Oversees infection prevention and control measures, monitors infection rates, and develops policies to reduce healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).
- **Members:** Infectious disease specialists, infection control nurses, microbiologists, and quality assurance staff.

3. Quality Improvement (QI) Committee

- **Purpose:** Monitors and evaluates the quality of care provided, identifies areas for improvement, and implements quality improvement initiatives.
- **Members:** Physicians, nurses, administrators, and quality improvement specialists.

4. Ethics Committee

- **Purpose:** Provides guidance on ethical issues and dilemmas in patient care, develops hospital policies on ethical practices, and supports staff and patients in making ethical decisions.
- **Members:** Ethicists, physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, and legal advisors.

5. Medical Executive Committee

- **Purpose:** Governs the medical staff, oversees credentialing and privileging, and ensures medical staff adherence to hospital policies and standards.
- **Members:** Chief of staff, department heads, and senior medical staff members.

6. Patient Safety Committee

- **Purpose:** Promotes a culture of safety, analyzes patient safety incidents, and develops strategies to prevent harm to patients.
- **Members:** Physicians, nurses, risk managers, patient safety officers, and quality assurance staff.

7. Credentials Committee

- **Purpose:** Reviews and verifies the qualifications and credentials of healthcare providers, and grants or renews clinical privileges.
- **Members:** Senior physicians, credentialing specialists, and administrative staff.

8. Utilization Review Committee

- **Purpose:** Evaluates the appropriateness and efficiency of healthcare services provided, ensuring that resources are used effectively and patients receive necessary care.
- **Members:** Physicians, nurses, case managers, and social workers.

9. Health and Safety Committee

- **Purpose:** Ensures a safe working environment for staff and patients, conducts safety audits, and develops safety policies and procedures.
- **Members:** Safety officers, occupational health professionals, administrators, and frontline staff representatives.

10. Information Technology (IT) Committee

- **Purpose:** Oversees the implementation and maintenance of healthcare information systems, ensures data security and privacy, and promotes the use of technology to improve patient care.
- **Members:** IT professionals, physicians, nurses, and administrators.

11. Nursing Committee

- **Purpose:** Addresses issues related to nursing practice, education, and staffing, and ensures high standards of nursing care.
- **Members:** Chief nursing officer, nurse managers, and senior nursing staff.

12. Medical Records Committee

- **Purpose:** Ensures accurate and complete documentation in patient medical records, oversees the management of health information, and ensures compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.
- **Members:** Health information managers, physicians, nurses, and compliance officers.

13. Finance Committee

- **Purpose:** Manages the financial affairs of the hospital, including budgeting, financial planning, and ensuring financial sustainability.
- **Members:** Chief financial officer, financial analysts, and administrators.

14. Ethics and Compliance Committee

- **Purpose:** Ensures the hospital adheres to ethical standards and regulatory requirements, conducts audits, and handles compliance issues.
- **Members:** Legal advisors, compliance officers, administrators, and representatives from various clinical departments.

Each of these committees plays a crucial role in the effective functioning of a hospital, ensuring that various aspects of patient care, safety, and hospital operations are well-managed and continuously improved.

A Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee is a multidisciplinary group within a healthcare organization responsible for overseeing all aspects of medication use. The committee's primary focus is to ensure the safe, effective, and cost-efficient use of medications. It achieves this by developing and maintaining the formulary, reviewing medication use policies, evaluating drug efficacy and safety, and guiding medication-related decision-making processes.

Objectives of a Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee

1. **Ensure Patient Safety:** To promote the safe use of medications and minimize medication errors.
2. **Optimize Medication Use:** To ensure medications are used effectively and appropriately to achieve the best patient outcomes.
3. **Formulary Management:** To develop and maintain a formulary of approved medications.
4. **Cost Management:** To manage the cost of pharmaceuticals while ensuring quality and access to essential medications.
5. **Policy Development:** To develop and implement medication use policies and guidelines.
6. **Education and Training:** To provide education and training for healthcare professionals regarding medication use and safety.

Composition of a Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee

1. **Chairperson:** Typically a senior pharmacist or pharmacy director.
2. **Pharmacists:** Clinical pharmacists, hospital pharmacists, and other specialized pharmacists.
3. **Physicians:** Representatives from various medical specialties.
4. **Nurses:** Nurse practitioners or nurse managers.
5. **Administrators:** Hospital or clinic administrators to provide insight into operational aspects.
6. **Quality Assurance Representatives:** To ensure adherence to quality standards.
7. **Informatics Specialists:** For managing electronic medical records and prescribing systems.
8. **Patient Representatives:** Sometimes included to provide patient perspectives on medication use and safety.

Functions of a Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee

1. **Formulary Management:**
 - Evaluate and approve new medications for inclusion in the formulary.

- Review and update the formulary regularly to ensure it meets current clinical needs and standards.
- Develop and maintain guidelines for the use of formulary medications.

2. Medication Safety:

- Monitor medication use and adverse drug reactions.
- Develop and implement strategies to reduce medication errors.
- Conduct medication use evaluations (MUE) and drug utilization reviews (DUR).

3. Policy and Protocol Development:

- Develop and update policies related to prescribing, dispensing, and administering medications.
- Create protocols for handling high-risk medications and situations (e.g., chemotherapy, anticoagulants).

4. Education and Training:

- Provide education programs for healthcare providers on new medications, changes in the formulary, and safe medication practices.
- Disseminate information on medication safety alerts and best practices.

5. Cost Management:

- Analyze and manage medication costs and budgeting.
- Evaluate the cost-effectiveness of different treatment options.
- Implement strategies to reduce drug expenditure without compromising patient care.

6. Quality Assurance and Compliance:

- Ensure compliance with regulatory standards and accreditation requirements.
- Conduct audits and inspections to ensure proper medication storage, handling, and documentation.
- Address and resolve any issues related to medication errors or safety concerns.

7. Research and Innovation:

- Support and oversee clinical research involving pharmaceuticals.
- Evaluate and incorporate innovative practices and technologies in medication management.

A hospital formulary is an official list of medications approved for use within a particular hospital or healthcare system. It is designed to ensure the safe, effective, and economical use of pharmaceuticals. The formulary includes information on medication selection, prescribing guidelines, and protocols for drug use, which are developed and maintained by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee.

Procedure for Development and Use of a Hospital Formulary

1. Establishing the P&T Committee

- **Formation:** Assemble a multidisciplinary team, including pharmacists, physicians, nurses, administrators, and other relevant stakeholders.
- **Roles and Responsibilities:** Define the roles, responsibilities, and procedures for the P&T Committee, including meeting schedules and decision-making processes.

2. Identifying Medication Needs

- **Assessment:** Conduct an assessment of the hospital's medication needs based on the patient population, disease prevalence, and treatment protocols.
- **Input Collection:** Gather input from various clinical departments regarding their medication requirements and preferences.

3. Selecting Medications for the Formulary

- **Criteria Development:** Establish criteria for selecting medications, including efficacy, safety, cost-effectiveness, and clinical necessity.
- **Evidence Review:** Review scientific literature, clinical guidelines, and evidence-based practices to evaluate the efficacy and safety of medications.
- **Comparative Analysis:** Compare new medications with existing formulary drugs to determine relative benefits and costs.

4. Approval and Inclusion Process

- **Proposals:** Submit proposals for new medications to the P&T Committee.
- **Review and Evaluation:** The P&T Committee reviews the proposals, discusses the evidence, and evaluates the medication's potential impact.
- **Voting:** The committee votes on whether to include the medication in the formulary.
- **Documentation:** Document the decisions and rationale for inclusion or exclusion of medications.

5. Formulary Maintenance and Updating

- **Regular Review:** Conduct regular reviews of the formulary (e.g., annually or biannually) to ensure it remains current and relevant.
- **Monitor Usage:** Monitor the usage patterns of formulary medications, adverse drug reactions, and patient outcomes.
- **Feedback Loop:** Collect feedback from healthcare providers and adjust the formulary as needed.

6. Education and Implementation

- **Communication:** Communicate formulary changes and updates to all relevant healthcare staff.
- **Training:** Provide training sessions on the use of the formulary, including new medications, prescribing guidelines, and safety protocols.

- **Access:** Ensure that the formulary is easily accessible to all healthcare providers, both in print and electronically.

7. Ensuring Compliance and Monitoring

- **Policy Development:** Develop and enforce policies to ensure compliance with formulary guidelines.
- **Audits and Inspections:** Conduct regular audits and inspections to ensure adherence to formulary policies.
- **Address Non-Compliance:** Address any instances of non-compliance through education, feedback, and corrective actions.

8. Evaluation and Improvement

- **Outcome Measurement:** Measure patient outcomes and medication-related performance indicators.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Use the data collected to continuously improve the formulary and related processes.
- **Research Integration:** Integrate findings from clinical research and emerging best practices to enhance the formulary.

An Infection Control Committee (ICC) is a multidisciplinary team within a healthcare facility responsible for the development, implementation, and oversight of infection prevention and control (IPC) policies and procedures. The primary goal of the ICC is to minimize the risk of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and ensure a safe environment for patients, staff, and visitors.

Objectives

1. **Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs):** Reduce the incidence of infections acquired within the healthcare setting.
2. **Promote Infection Control Practices:** Ensure adherence to best practices in infection prevention and control among healthcare personnel.
3. **Surveillance and Monitoring:** Conduct regular surveillance of infection rates and monitor trends to identify and address potential outbreaks.
4. **Policy Development and Implementation:** Develop, review, and implement IPC policies, guidelines, and protocols.
5. **Education and Training:** Provide ongoing education and training to healthcare staff on infection prevention and control practices.
6. **Regulatory Compliance:** Ensure compliance with local, national, and international infection control regulations and standards.

7. **Antimicrobial Stewardship:** Promote the rational use of antimicrobials to reduce resistance and preserve the effectiveness of existing treatments.

Composition

1. **Chairperson:** Typically an infectious disease specialist or an infection control nurse.
2. **Infection Control Practitioners:** Including infection control nurses and epidemiologists.
3. **Physicians:** Representatives from various medical specialties, particularly infectious diseases and critical care.
4. **Nurses:** Nurse managers or practitioners from different departments.
5. **Microbiologists:** Clinical microbiologists who can provide expertise on pathogen identification and control measures.
6. **Pharmacists:** Particularly those involved in antimicrobial stewardship.
7. **Quality Assurance and Risk Management Representatives:** To ensure adherence to quality and safety standards.
8. **Environmental Services Staff:** For expertise in cleaning and disinfection protocols.
9. **Administrators:** Hospital or clinic administrators to provide operational support and policy enforcement.
10. **Occupational Health Staff:** To address healthcare worker health and safety.

Functions

1. **Surveillance and Data Analysis:**
 - Conduct ongoing surveillance of HAIs.
 - Analyze infection data to identify trends, outbreaks, and areas for improvement.
 - Report findings to hospital administration and relevant health authorities.
2. **Policy and Protocol Development:**
 - Develop and regularly update IPC policies and protocols based on current evidence and guidelines.
 - Implement standard operating procedures for managing infectious diseases and outbreaks.
3. **Education and Training:**
 - Conduct regular training sessions for healthcare workers on IPC practices.
 - Provide updates on new guidelines, protocols, and emerging infectious threats.
4. **Infection Prevention Strategies:**
 - Implement strategies to prevent the transmission of infections, such as hand hygiene programs, isolation protocols, and vaccination policies.
 - Ensure proper use and availability of personal protective equipment (PPE).

5. Outbreak Management:

- Develop and implement outbreak response plans.
- Coordinate the investigation and management of infection outbreaks within the facility.

6. Antimicrobial Stewardship:

- Promote appropriate use of antibiotics and other antimicrobials.
- Monitor and review antimicrobial prescribing patterns.
- Develop guidelines to reduce antimicrobial resistance.

7. Environmental Control:

- Ensure proper cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization of equipment and environments.
- Work with environmental services to maintain high standards of hygiene and sanitation.

8. Compliance and Audits:

- Conduct regular audits of IPC practices to ensure compliance with established policies.
- Address non-compliance through corrective actions and staff education.

9. Collaboration and Communication:

- Facilitate communication and collaboration among various departments to ensure a unified approach to infection control.
- Serve as a liaison between the healthcare facility and external public health agencies.

10. Evaluation and Improvement:

- Continuously evaluate the effectiveness of IPC measures.
- Implement improvements based on feedback, audit results, and new research findings.

Pharmacists play a crucial role in preventing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through various responsibilities and activities that promote the appropriate use of antimicrobials, educate healthcare providers and patients, and implement antimicrobial stewardship programs. Here are the key roles pharmacists play in this critical area:

1. Antimicrobial Stewardship

- **Program Development and Implementation:** Pharmacists often lead or participate in antimicrobial stewardship programs (ASPs), which aim to optimize antimicrobial use to improve patient outcomes and reduce resistance.
- **Guideline Creation:** Collaborate in developing and updating guidelines and protocols for the appropriate use of antimicrobials.

- **Policy Enforcement:** Ensure adherence to established antimicrobial policies within the healthcare setting.

2. Education and Training

- **Healthcare Provider Education:** Educate physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals on the principles of antimicrobial stewardship and the importance of appropriate antimicrobial use.
- **Patient Education:** Counsel patients on the proper use of prescribed antimicrobials, emphasizing the importance of completing the full course of treatment and not using antibiotics for viral infections.

3. Optimizing Antimicrobial Use

- **Review and Recommendation:** Review antimicrobial prescriptions for appropriateness, considering factors such as the type of infection, patient characteristics, and susceptibility patterns. Recommend alternative treatments or dosage adjustments when necessary.
- **De-escalation:** Advocate for de-escalation of therapy when culture and sensitivity results become available, shifting from broad-spectrum to narrow-spectrum agents as appropriate.
- **Therapeutic Drug Monitoring:** Monitor therapeutic levels of antimicrobials to ensure efficacy and reduce toxicity, adjusting dosages as needed.

4. Surveillance and Data Analysis

- **Monitoring Resistance Patterns:** Track local antimicrobial resistance patterns and usage data to identify trends and inform treatment guidelines.
- **Reporting:** Report resistance data to relevant public health authorities and within the institution to guide empirical therapy and infection control measures.

5. Infection Control Collaboration

- **Interdisciplinary Teamwork:** Work closely with infection control teams to prevent the spread of resistant organisms within healthcare facilities.
- **Policy Development:** Participate in the creation and implementation of infection control policies that minimize the risk of transmission of resistant bacteria.

6. Research and Advocacy

- **Clinical Research:** Engage in research to evaluate the effectiveness of antimicrobial stewardship interventions and to develop new strategies to combat AMR.
- **Advocacy:** Advocate for policies and practices at the local, national, and international levels that support antimicrobial stewardship and combat AMR.

7. Patient Care and Counseling

- **Tailored Interventions:** Provide personalized counseling to patients, explaining the importance of adherence to prescribed regimens and the dangers of misuse.

- **Side Effect Management:** Educate patients on potential side effects of antimicrobials and how to manage them, reducing unnecessary discontinuation of therapy.

8. Promoting Vaccinations

- **Immunization Programs:** Encourage and participate in immunization programs to prevent infections that might otherwise require antimicrobial treatment, thereby reducing overall antimicrobial use.

9. Regulatory Compliance

- **Regulation Adherence:** Ensure compliance with regulations and guidelines related to antimicrobial prescribing and usage.
- **Audit and Feedback:** Conduct regular audits of antimicrobial use and provide feedback to prescribers to promote adherence to guidelines.