

Expertise Centre Pharmacotherapy In Old Persons (Ephor): New Initiative In The Netherlands



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Introduction

The large numbers of drug use in frail elderly has a major impact. To improve pharmacotherapy the Expertise Centre Pharmacotherapy in Old Persons was raised. Funding was requested in the program Priority Medicines in the Elderly of the health research organization ZonMw in the Netherlands.

Mission

The mission of Ephor is to provide better pharmacotherapy for old persons

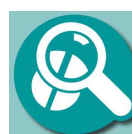
Goals



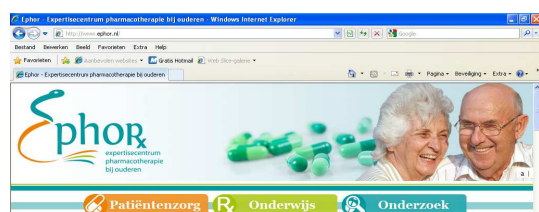
To inform prescribers and pharmacists and to provide tools to improve appropriate prescribing in old persons.



To improve education in gerontopharmacology to medical and pharmacy students and nurses. To develop post academic courses in gerontopharmacology.



To enhance the number of frail elderly in pre- and/or postmarketing studies. To provide tools to regulators to check the necessary information for prescribing medicines appropriately to frail elderly.



www.ephor.nl
www.ephor.eu (under construction)

Results



A model to compare efficacy and safety of medicines in frail elderly is developed. The information will be incorporated in the National Formulary and Informatorium, standardized electronic and written information used by prescribers and pharmacists. The development of the model is submitted to an international peer reviewed journal.

The Polypharmacy Optimization Method (POM) for reconciliation of actual drug use and follow up in frail elderly has recently been developed. (Drenth-van Maanen et al. Drugs and Aging 2009;26:687-701). An electronic version of this application is under development.

Structured History taking of Medication (SHIM), to know what medicines a patient really uses, is developed and will be presented on the EUGMS.



A teaching program will be developed using the WHO-6 step and the e-learning method Pscribe including a polypharmacy module. The effect on knowledge of medical and pharmacy students will be studied. A course for nurses and a post-academic course will be developed based on the POM and the SHIM.



The CHecklist for Information of Medicines appropriateness for Elderly patients (CHIME) will be developed using the ICH E7 studies in support of special populations: Geriatrics, combined with the model to compare efficacy and safety of medicines. A Postmarketing pilot in OLd patients using Intensive medication Surveillance (POLIS) will be set up.

The information and tools will become available on the web.

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