

Development of the Thai Pharmacy Council's Short-Term Professional Certificate Program in Pharmacy

Jitteporn Klaytae, Prayuth Poowaruttanawiwit

Faculty Pharmaceutical Sciences, Naresuan University, Phitsanulok Province

Abstract

The current certification program for short-term professional certificates in pharmacy, provided by the Thai Pharmacy Council, consists of a total of 67 courses. Many of these courses are related to pharmaceutical care, with a significant subdivision in 46 specialized areas. This paper highlights the direct impact of having short-term professional certificate programs in pharmacy on the professional advancement of pharmacists who undergo training, in terms of acquiring in-depth knowledge in their respective fields of study and increasing job satisfaction. Additionally, it examines the societal implications of developing pharmacy professions with profound and diverse expertise, which contribute to enhancing specialized patient care and expanding coverage to a broader range of patients. This, in turn, promotes rational drug use, effective treatment, safety, and collaborative healthcare practices. The trend towards implementing short-term professional certificate programs in pharmacy directly correlates with improving public health by reducing the incidence of various diseases and minimizing health emergencies. Moreover, the presence of pharmacists with specialized knowledge in multiple disciplines can significantly enhance the overall efficiency of the healthcare system, particularly in terms of improving healthcare delivery, increasing work quality, and ultimately improving the overall well-being of the population.

Keywords: development; short-term professional certificates in pharmacy; societal implications; healthcare

Received: 2023 May 26

Revised: 2023 Jun 21

Accepted: 2023 Jun 23

Introduction

The following discourse delves into the realm of the Short-Term Professional Certificate Program in Pharmacy, a 16-week curriculum meticulously

crafted in adherence to the prescribed guidelines for short-term training programs outlined by the Thai Pharmacy Council. The overarching objective of this program is to foster the acquisition of knowledge and the honing of professional

skills within specialized domains of the pharmacy profession. These short-term training initiatives cater to aspiring pharmacists who undertake their educational pursuits at accredited institutions. Notably, the training duration must span a minimum of 16 weeks, while the cumulative credit requirement throughout the program should not fall below 16. This distribution entails a minimum of 2 credit units allocated to theoretical coursework and at least 14 credit units dedicated to practical components. Successful completion of the training, as assessed against pre-established benchmarks, renders trainees eligible to apply for the coveted Short-Term Professional Certificate in Pharmacy issued by the Thai Pharmacy Council.⁽¹⁾ It is pertinent to note that the Thai Pharmacy Council presently endorses a comprehensive array of 67 short-term professional certificate programs in pharmacy. Predominantly, these programs are tailored to the domain of pharmaceutical care, while a considerable subset encompasses an expansive spectrum of 46 specialized subfields. The remaining programs cater to pharmacy management, industrial pharmacy, and herbal medicine. An intriguing observation is the substantial proliferation of diverse and highly specialized sub-courses within the ambit of this certification program. Nevertheless, an inquiry into the genesis and rationale behind the extensive proliferation of such sub-courses remains conspicuously absent from the existing discourse.

This scholarly article strives to critically evaluate and appraise the trajectory of the Short-Term Professional Certificate Program in Pharmacy, meticulously sanctioned by the Thai Pharmacy Council. It entails an incisive examination of the Thai healthcare landscape,

with a specific focus on medication utilization, the pivotal role of pharmacists in the medication ecosystem, and the underlying significance and ramifications of administering short-term professional certificate programs. Furthermore, the study delves into the anticipated societal ramifications within the Thai context, ultimately culminating in a set of recommendations aimed at fostering the judicious development of pharmacists in consonance with the broader national healthcare framework.

This article examines existing literature on short-term pharmaceutical vocational certificate programs in Thailand. The research draws on various sources, such as research studies, academic articles, interviews with stakeholders, and surveys conducted by educational institutions. However, it should be noted that the available data is limited, especially regarding the origins of these programs certified by the Pharmacy Council of Thailand. One area that lacks extensive documentation is the principles guiding the selection and differentiation of specialized branches within these programs. It remains unclear how each branch is distinct from others or if there are any potential overlaps. Furthermore, there is a scarcity of information regarding the expected outcomes beyond acquiring knowledge and gaining practical experience, as well as the feedback received from those who have completed the programs. To fill these knowledge gaps, further research is needed. Future investigations should provide a comprehensive analysis of the historical context and development of these short-term pharmaceutical vocational certificate programs. Additionally, it is important to explore the underlying principles that inform the selection of

specialized branches. Furthermore, researchers should assess the broader impact of these programs by considering the expected outcomes and gathering feedback from participants, including their ability to apply their acquired knowledge and skills in real-world situations. Conducting such studies would enhance our understanding of the strengths and limitations of these programs and offer insights for potential improvements and refinements.

Medication Utilization in Thailand: Assessing the Current Landscape of Healthcare Delivery

The healthcare landscape in Thailand demonstrates a well-established system that facilitates access to a diverse array of medications. Considerable strides have been made to ensure the availability and affordability of essential medicines for the population.^(2,3) Thailand's implementation of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) scheme has played a pivotal role in granting health insurance coverage to a significant majority of its populace.⁽⁴⁾ Through the UHC program, individuals are provided with comprehensive healthcare services, encompassing access to medications.⁽⁴⁾ The government has also established the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), a catalogue of crucial pharmaceuticals, which guarantees the accessibility of vital medications to the population.⁽⁵⁾ Pharmaceutical regulations fall under the purview of Thailand's Food and Drug Administration (FDA), entrusted with safeguarding the safety, efficacy, and quality of available medications.^(5,6) Rigorous evaluations are conducted by the FDA to assess medications

before granting marketing approval, with continuous monitoring of their safety and quality throughout their life cycles.

To promote rational drug use, Thailand has undertaken various initiatives. These include educational endeavors targeting healthcare professionals and patients to foster appropriate medication utilization, as well as the implementation of policies, such as antimicrobial stewardship programs, aimed at curbing inappropriate medication use.⁽⁷⁻⁹⁾ Thailand boasts a well-developed network of pharmacies encompassing both public and private establishments that dispense medications to the population.⁽¹⁰⁾ Pharmacists play a pivotal role in this landscape by providing medication counseling, ensuring proper use, and offering guidance on potential drug interactions or adverse effects.⁽¹¹⁾ It is important to acknowledge that the specific healthcare status pertaining to medication usage may have evolved since the knowledge cutoff. Thus, it is advisable to refer to the latest reports, studies, or government sources for the most up-to-date information regarding the present healthcare status and medication utilization in Thailand.

The Role of Pharmacist in Medication Utilization in Thailand

Pharmacists in Thailand play a vital role in medication utilization, encompassing responsibilities that extend beyond dispensing medications and focus on optimizing healthcare delivery.⁽¹⁰⁾ They serve as medication experts, providing essential counseling to both patients and healthcare professionals, ensuring

a comprehensive understanding of prescribed medications, including proper administration, potential side effects, and drug interactions. Collaborating with physicians and other healthcare providers, pharmacists review prescriptions, recommend suitable therapeutic alternatives, and work to prevent medication errors. Moreover, pharmacists actively contribute to medication management programs, such as antimicrobial stewardship and chronic disease management, by monitoring and evaluating patients' medication regimens, promoting adherence, and implementing strategies to minimize medication-related risks.⁽¹²⁻¹⁷⁾ Their expertise contributes to optimizing treatment outcomes, reducing unnecessary healthcare utilization, and enhancing patient safety.

To further enhance medication utilization in Thailand, there is a need for improvement in pharmacist involvement. Expanding the scope of practice for pharmacists, allowing them to provide advanced clinical services, such as medication therapy management, collaborative drug therapy management, and prescribing authority under specific conditions, would enable them to have a more direct impact on patient care and optimize medication use. Additionally, enhancing interprofessional collaboration among healthcare providers is crucial, as effective communication and cooperation can facilitate comprehensive patient care and improve medication-related outcomes. Furthermore, efforts to increase public awareness about the role of pharmacists and their contributions to medication utilization are necessary. Educating the public on the value of pharmacist services, including medication counseling and management, can foster a greater understanding and appreciation of their expertise. By addressing

these areas for improvement, the involvement and impact of pharmacists in medication utilization can be further optimized, leading to enhanced patient care and improved healthcare outcomes in Thailand.

Specialized pharmacists in Thailand play a complementary role to doctors, contributing to the overall effectiveness of the healthcare system. While doctors are responsible for diagnosing and prescribing treatments, specialized pharmacists bring their expertise in medication management, playing a crucial role in optimizing patient care. Contrary to causing disruption or duplicating doctors' work, specialized pharmacists collaborate with healthcare professionals to enhance patient outcomes. They closely collaborate with physicians to review prescriptions, identify potential drug interactions or adverse effects, and recommend appropriate therapeutic alternatives. This collaborative approach ensures comprehensive medication management, reducing the risk of medication-related problems. By focusing on medication-related aspects of patient care, specialized pharmacists alleviate doctors from the burden of detailed medication management, allowing them to allocate more time to other facets of patient care, such as diagnosis and treatment planning. This collaboration fosters an interdisciplinary approach, where each healthcare professional contributes their specialized knowledge and skills to provide holistic care. Moreover, specialized pharmacists contribute to interprofessional teams, working alongside doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to optimize patient outcomes. Their expertise in medication therapy, drug interactions, and adverse effects enhances the

quality of care through shared decision-making and coordinated treatment plans. The presence of specialized pharmacists within the healthcare system does not disrupt doctors' existing roles and responsibilities; rather, it creates a collaborative environment that maximizes the potential of each healthcare professional, resulting in improved patient care and outcomes. It is important to note that the specific roles and responsibilities of specialized pharmacists may vary based on the regulations and scope of practice in Thailand. Establishing clear communication and promoting collaboration among healthcare professionals, along with well-defined protocols and guidelines, can ensure effective teamwork and prevent potential disruptions in the healthcare system.

What's Short-Term Pharmaceutical Vocational Certificates

Short-Term Pharmaceutical Vocational Certificates in Thailand are specialized training programs that aim to impart practical skills and knowledge within the field of pharmacy, with the objective of equipping individuals with the necessary competencies to effectively operate in diverse pharmaceutical settings, including pharmacies, hospitals, and healthcare institutions.⁽¹⁸⁾ These certificate programs typically have a relatively short duration, typically ranging from a few months to a year. They are meticulously designed to deliver targeted training, focusing on specific areas of significance within the pharmaceutical domain, such as medication dispensing, pharmaceutical calculations, pharmacy ethics, and drug interactions.⁽¹⁸⁾

To ensure adherence to requisite standards and guidelines established by the regulatory authority, these programs undergo accreditation by the Pharmacy Council in Thailand. The accreditation process entails an assessment of the curriculum, faculty qualifications, training facilities, and teaching methodologies, with the aim of providing students with a high-quality educational experience and comprehensive practical training. Attaining a Short-Term Pharmaceutical Vocational Certificate not only enhances individuals' career prospects in the pharmaceutical industry, but also enables them to actively contribute to the healthcare system in Thailand. These certificates open opportunities for employment in roles such as pharmacy technicians, assistant pharmacists, and other related positions, thus enabling individuals to make valuable contributions to the healthcare sector in the country.

Currently, there are a total of 67 short-term pharmaceutical vocational certificate programs certified by the Pharmacy Council of Thailand. These programs primarily focus on pharmacy administration, with a significant majority consisting of 46 subcategories. The remaining programs are related to pharmaceutical business management, industrial pharmacy, and herbal pharmacy. However, numerous unanswered questions and uncertainties persist. For instance, the number of students enrolled in each program, the teaching methodologies employed, and the post-graduation outcomes in terms of individual, organizational, and societal impacts remain ambiguous. Furthermore, the disparities between individuals who have completed the program and those who have not, in terms of their performance within the same professional field or work context, pose additional inquiries.

The presence of 67 certified short-term pharmaceutical vocational certificate programs, accredited by the Pharmacy Council of Thailand, offers both advantages and disadvantages worth considering. One of the notable benefits is the extensive selection of programs, providing students with diverse opportunities to specialize in various aspects of pharmacy. With a predominant emphasis on pharmacy administration, students can tailor their education to align with their specific interests and career aspirations. Furthermore, the inclusion of 46 subcategories within this domain facilitates in-depth knowledge acquisition and skill development, enabling learners to gain expertise in specialized areas of pharmaceutical management. Additionally, the incorporation of programs encompassing pharmaceutical business management, industrial pharmacy, and herbal pharmacy acknowledges the significance of these sectors in the pharmaceutical industry, ensuring that graduates possess skills aligned with prevailing industry demands. Nonetheless, certain challenges accompany this abundance of programs. The sheer number of offerings, particularly in pharmacy administration, may lead to potential redundancies in course content and curriculum, potentially resulting in inefficiencies and resource duplication. Ensuring consistent program quality across all 67 offerings may prove demanding, considering potential variations in teaching methodologies, faculty qualifications, and available resources. Furthermore, limitations in resources and support systems, including faculty expertise, facilities, and industry partnerships, may hinder the provision of comprehensive practical training, mentorship, and industry exposure to students.

To address these concerns, it is imperative to implement continuous monitoring and

evaluation mechanisms by relevant authorities and stakeholders. This approach would help mitigate potential drawbacks, enhance program quality, and ensure the continued relevance and adherence to high standards in short-term pharmaceutical vocational education in Thailand.

Enhancing Healthcare: The Social Impact of Specialized Pharmacists in Thailand

The growing prevalence of specialized pharmacists in Thailand carries significant social implications.^(18,19) These pharmacists possess advanced expertise and proficiencies in distinct facets of pharmacy practice, encompassing clinical pharmacy, pharmacotherapy, and specialized disease management. Primarily, the availability of specialized pharmacists augments patient care and safety. Their proficiency enables them to deliver comprehensive medication management, entailing the review of prescriptions, identification of potential drug interactions or adverse effects, and optimization of medication regimens.⁽¹¹⁾ Consequently, this contributes to enhanced patient outcomes and a diminished likelihood of medication-related issues. Furthermore, specialized pharmacists assume a pivotal role within healthcare teams, collaborating with physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals.

Their specialized knowledge facilitates effective communication and shared decision-making, thereby fostering improved coordination of care and treatment plans. This interprofessional collaboration engenders heightened patient satisfaction and bolsters the overall quality of healthcare. Moreover, specialized pharmacists

actively contribute to public health initiatives. They engage in medication counseling, encouraging adherence to treatment plans and imparting education on proper medication utilization. Additionally, they lend their expertise to medication management programs, such as antimicrobial stewardship or chronic disease management, thereby combating antibiotic resistance and alleviating the burden of chronic illnesses in the populace. The presence of specialized pharmacists also confers benefits upon the healthcare system at large.⁽¹²⁻¹⁷⁾ Their expertise and involvement in medication-related decision-making lead to cost savings by circumventing unnecessary drug therapies, diminishing hospital readmissions, and averting adverse drug events. This not only serves the welfare of individual patients but also optimizes the allocation of healthcare resources and mitigates the economic burden borne by the healthcare system. In summary, the increased availability of specialized pharmacists in Thailand bears positive social consequences. Their advanced knowledge and aptitudes in specialized areas of pharmacy practice enhance patient care, foster interprofessional collaboration, contribute to public health initiatives, and optimize the utilization of healthcare resources. Ultimately, these outcomes yield improved health outcomes, enhanced healthcare quality, and a more sustainable healthcare system.

Pros and Cons

The presence of specialized pharmacists in Thailand brings forth a multitude of advantages and disadvantages regarding their social impact. On the positive side, specialized pharmacists possess in-depth knowledge and expertise

within specific areas of pharmacy practice. This heightened specialization allows them to deliver tailored and precise care, resulting in improved patient outcomes. For instance, pharmacists specializing in geriatric care can offer specialized medication management for elderly patients, minimizing the risks of adverse drug reactions and ensuring appropriate dosing. Similarly, specialized pharmacists in areas such as oncology or pediatrics can provide specialized guidance and support to patients within these populations, addressing their unique medication needs. Moreover, specialized pharmacists actively contribute to public health initiatives by educating the public about disease prevention, medication adherence, and vaccination campaigns. Their expertise plays a crucial role in promoting health literacy and fostering better community health.

However, the presence of specialized pharmacists also presents challenges and potential disadvantages. One concern is the potential fragmentation of pharmaceutical care, as an increase in specialized pharmacists may lead to limited collaboration and communication among different specialties. This fragmentation can hinder comprehensive patient care, particularly when patients receive services from multiple specialized pharmacists without proper coordination. To address this issue, establishing effective interprofessional collaboration mechanisms becomes essential to ensure seamless and integrated care delivery. Furthermore, the concentration of specialized pharmacists in specific regions or disciplines can result in unequal access to specialized care, particularly in rural or underserved areas. Efforts should be made to ensure equitable distribution of

specialized pharmacists across different regions, bridging healthcare gaps and providing equal access to specialized services for all individuals. In summary, the presence of specialized pharmacists in Thailand offers significant benefits in terms of tailored patient care, public health initiatives, and improved health outcomes. However, challenges such as fragmented care and unequal access to specialized services need to be addressed to maximize the positive social impact of specialized pharmacists. By striking a balance between specialization and collaboration, it is possible to leverage the expertise of specialized pharmacists effectively and ensure equitable and integrated pharmaceutical care for all individuals.

Developing Specialized Pharmacists for Optimal Medication Care in Thai Society

A proposal for the development of a system for creating pharmacists with knowledge in specific fields of pharmaceutical therapy suitable for the care of medicines for Thai society should be followed by these steps. Curriculum Development: The first step is to develop a specialized curriculum that encompasses targeted fields of pharmaceutical therapy. The curriculum will be designed to provide in-depth knowledge and practical training in areas such as clinical pharmacy, pharmacotherapy, specialized disease management, and pharmaceutical care. It will include both theoretical coursework and experiential learning, incorporating case studies, simulations, and hands-on training to enhance students' understanding and competency in specific pharmaceutical therapies. Faculty Training and Development: To ensure the delivery

of high-quality education, faculty members responsible for teaching specialized courses will undergo rigorous training and development. They will receive specialized training in their respective fields of expertise and be encouraged to engage in ongoing professional development to stay updated with the latest advancements in pharmaceutical therapy. This will ensure that students receive instruction from knowledgeable and experienced educators. Collaborations with Healthcare Institutions: Establishing collaborations with healthcare institutions, including hospitals, clinics, and research centers, will be a crucial aspect of the system. These partnerships will provide opportunities for students to gain practical experience in specialized pharmaceutical therapy settings. Students will have the chance to work under the supervision of specialized pharmacists and interact with multidisciplinary healthcare teams to develop their clinical skills and understanding of real-world practice. Preceptorship Programs: Implementing preceptorship programs will further enhance students' learning and professional development. These programs will involve placing students in clinical settings, where they will work closely with preceptors who are specialized pharmacists. Through this hands-on experience, students will apply their knowledge, hone their clinical decision-making skills, and develop their patient care abilities under the guidance of experienced practitioners. Continuing Professional Development: Recognizing the importance of lifelong learning, the system will emphasize the need for specialized pharmacists to engage in continuing professional development (CPD). CPD programs will provide opportunities for pharmacists to enhance their knowledge and

skills in specific fields of pharmaceutical therapy through workshops, seminars, conferences, and online resources. This will ensure that specialized pharmacists stay up to date with the latest developments and best practices in their respective areas of expertise. Conclusion: The development of a specialized pharmacist education system tailored to the needs of Thai society will contribute to the provision of high-quality pharmaceutical therapy and patient care. This comprehensive system will equip pharmacists with the necessary knowledge and skills to excel in specific fields of pharmaceutical therapy, thereby meeting the healthcare demands of the population and ensuring optimal health outcomes for patients in Thailand.

Conclusion

The introduction of short-term professional certificate programs in pharmacy, certified by the Thai Pharmacy Council, has brought about significant advancements and implications for both the pharmacy profession and Thai society. These programs, comprising a total of 67 courses, offer pharmacists the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and expertise in specific areas of pharmacy practice. The availability of 46 specialized areas further enhances pharmacists' ability to provide targeted and specialized care to patients, resulting in improved health outcomes and expanded access to quality healthcare. The implementation of these certificate programs has had a transformative effect on the pharmacy profession. Pharmacists who undergo training in these programs acquire in-depth knowledge in their respective fields of study, enabling them to deliver more specialized and comprehensive

patient care. This leads to increased job satisfaction and professional growth among pharmacists, who are now better equipped to address the complex needs of patients and contribute to the overall improvement of public health. Furthermore, the societal implications of developing pharmacy professions with profound and diverse expertise are significant. The presence of pharmacists with specialized knowledge in multiple disciplines promotes rational drug use and effective treatment, thereby reducing the incidence of various diseases and minimizing health emergencies. These specialized pharmacists play a vital role in collaborative healthcare practices, working alongside other healthcare professionals to ensure comprehensive care and optimal patient outcomes. The trend towards the implementation of short-term professional certificate programs in pharmacy reflects a strategic effort to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the healthcare system in Thailand. By equipping pharmacists with specialized knowledge, these programs contribute to improving healthcare delivery, increasing the quality of work, and ultimately enhancing the overall well-being of the population. The positive impact of these programs extends beyond individual patient care, as they contribute to the advancement of public health and the overall development of the healthcare sector in Thailand. In conclusion, the introduction of short-term professional certificate programs in pharmacy in Thailand has proven to be a valuable initiative. These programs have empowered pharmacists with specialized knowledge, improved patient care, and made significant contributions to the advancement of public health. Continued support and expansion of

these programs are essential to meet the evolving healthcare needs of the Thai society and ensure the sustained growth and development of the pharmacy profession.

Reference

1. Thai Pharmacy Council. Short-Term Professional Certificate Program in Pharmacy, 16 weeks [Internet]. [cited 2023 Jun 23]. Available from: https://www.pharmacycouncil.org/index.php?option=content_detail&view=detail&itemid=1859&catid=1
2. Wiwanitkit V. Mandatory rural service for health care workers in Thailand. *Rural Remote Health* 2011;11:1583.
3. Kaufman ND, Chasombat S, Tanomsingh S, Rajataramya B, Potempa K. Public health in Thailand: emerging focus on non-communicable diseases. *Int J Health Plann Manage* 2011;26:e197-212.
4. Tangcharoensathien V, Witthayapipopsakul W, Panichkriangkrai W, Patcharanarumol W, Mills A. Health systems development in Thailand: a solid platform for successful implementation of universal health coverage. *Lancet* 2018;391:1205-23.
5. Thamlikitkul V. Health technology assessment in developing the National List of Essential Medicines in Thailand. *J Med Assoc Thai* 2014;Suppl:S3.
6. Teerawattananon Y, Tritasavit N, Suchonwanich N, Kingkaew P. The use of economic evaluation for guiding the pharmaceutical reimbursement list in Thailand. *Z Evid Fortbild Qual Gesundheitswes* 2014;108:397-404.
7. Sumpradit N, Chongtrakul P, Anuwong K, Pumtong S, Kongsomboon K, Butdeemee P, et al. Antibiotics smart use: a workable model for promoting the rational use of medicines in Thailand. *Bull World Health Organ* 2012;90:905-13.
8. Poompruek P, Perris A, Whanpuch P, Chandler CIR, Sringernyuang L. Mystifying medicines and maximising profit: Antibiotic distribution in community pharmacies in Thailand. *Glob Public Health* 2022;17:3931-43.
9. Ploylearmsang C, Kanjanasilp J, Tadtianant J, Sisala P. Promoting rational herb-drug use through pharmacy-led advice and home visits in NCD patients. *Pharm Pract (Granada)* 2022;20:2747.
10. Komwong D, Greenfield G, Zaman H, Majeed A, Hayhoe B. Clinical pharmacists in primary care: a safe solution to the workforce crisis?. *J R Soc Med* 2018;111:120-4.
11. Saramunee K, Krska J, Mackridge A, Richards J, Suttajit S, Phillips-Howard P. General public's views on pharmacy public health services: current situation and opportunities in the future. *Public Health* 2015;129:705-15.
12. Dhippayom T, Fuangchan A, Tunpichart S, Chaiyakunapruk N. Opportunistic screening and health promotion for type 2 diabetes: an expanding public health role for the community pharmacist. *J Public Health (Oxf)* 2013;35:262-9.
13. Semcharoen K, Supornpun S, Nathisuwan S, Kongwatcharapong J. Characteristic of drug-related problems and pharmacists' interventions in a stroke unit in Thailand. *Int J Clin Pharm* 2019;41:880-7.
14. Jantarathaneewat K, ApisanthFanarak A, Limvorapitak W, Weber DJ, Montakantikul P. Pharmacist-driven antibiotic stewardship program in febrile neutropenic patients: a single site prospective study in Thailand. *Antibiotics (Basel)* 2021;10:456.
15. Lertsinudom S, Kaewketthong P, Chankaew T, Chinwong D, Chinwong S. Smoking cessation services by community pharmacists: real-world practice in Thailand. *Int J Environ Res Public Health* 2021;18:11890.
16. Dpatients with depression: a systeDmatic review and meta-analysis of randomized Controlled Trials. *Ann Pharmacother* 2022;56:556-64.

17. Meanwatthana J, Chantarasap P, Chuatrisorn I, Wiriya T, Jitawatanarat P. Pharmacist's role in immune-related adverse events management: real-world incidence and risk evaluation from immunotherapy. Int J Pharm Pract 2022;30:377-82.
18. Chanakit T, Low BY, Wongpoowarak P, Moolasarn S, Anderson C. A Survey of pharmacy education in Thailand. Am J Pharm Educ 2014;78:161.
19. Ploylearmsang C, Kanjanasilp J, Kessomboon N, Suttajit S, Suwannaprom P, Sripa S, et al. Hospital pharmacy practice and the way forward for pharmacy education in Thailand. Can J Hosp Pharm 2019;72:34-41.

พัฒนาการของหลักสูตรประกาศนียบัตรวิชาชีพเภสัชกรรมระยะสั้น ของสภาเภสัชกรรมไทย

จิตตรีพร คล้ายแก้ว, ประยูทธ ภูวรัตน์าวีวิธ
คณะเภสัชศาสตร์ มหาวิทยาลัยนเรศวร จังหวัดพิษณุโลก

บทคัดย่อ

ประกาศนียบัตรวิชาชีพเภสัชกรรมระยะสั้นที่สภาเภสัชกรรมให้การรับรองในประเทศไทยในปัจจุบันมีทั้งหมด 67 หลักสูตร ส่วนใหญ่เป็นหลักสูตรที่เกี่ยวข้องกับการบริหารทางเภสัชกรรม แบ่งเป็นประเภทย่อยมากถึง 46 หลักสูตร บทปริทัศน์ฉบับนี้แสดงให้เห็นว่าการมีหลักสูตรประกาศนียบัตรวิชาชีพเภสัชกรรมระยะสั้นส่งผลกระทบต่อโดยตรงในแง่ความก้าวหน้าทางวิชาชีพของเภสัชกรที่เข้ารับการอบรมในแง่การมีองค์ความรู้เชิงลึกในสาขาที่เรียนมากขึ้นและเพิ่มค่าตอบแทนในการทำงาน ในแง่ผลกระทบที่เกิดขึ้นแก่สังคม การพัฒนาวิชาชีพเภสัชกรรมให้มีความรู้ในเชิงลึกและหลากหลายสาขาจะช่วยส่งเสริมทีมสหสาขาวิชาชีพในการให้การบริบาลผู้ป่วยได้แบบเฉพาะรายและครอบคลุมกลุ่มผู้ป่วยได้มากขึ้น ทำให้เกิดการใช้ยาที่สมเหตุผล การรักษามีประสิทธิภาพ ปลอดภัย และเพิ่มความร่วมมือในการรักษา ในทางตรงการมีหลักสูตรประกาศนียบัตรวิชาชีพเภสัชกรรมระยะสั้นมีแนวโน้มส่งเสริมสุขภาพของประชาชนลดความชุกของโรคและลดอุบัติการณ์ของการเกิดโรคได้หลายชนิด ในทางอ้อมการมีเภสัชกรที่มีองค์ความรู้เฉพาะทางในหลายสาขาสามารถช่วยเพิ่มประสิทธิภาพของระบบการสาธารณสุขในภาพรวม โดยเฉพาะอย่างยิ่งการเพิ่มประสิทธิภาพในการรักษาพยาบาลเพิ่มคุณภาพการทำงาน และส่งเสริมทำให้ประชาชนมีสุขภาพดีขึ้น

คำสำคัญ: พัฒนาการ; หลักสูตรประกาศนียบัตรวิชาชีพเภสัชกรรมระยะสั้น; ผลกระทบทางสังคม; การดูแลสุขภาพ