



What do patients know about Yellow Cards?

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Focal Points

- The objective was to evaluate patients knowledge and participation in the Yellow Card Scheme.
- Twenty eight participants had experienced an ADR themselves however, only 4% of participants had reported their ADR through the Yellow Card Scheme (YCS)
- The public needs more information regarding ADR reporting through Yellow Card Scheme to help improve pharmacovigilance.

Introduction

Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) are unwanted or harmful side effects that can occur after the administration of any medicine¹. The public has been able to report an ADR since 2005 through the **Yellow Card Scheme (YCS)**. In 2014/15 patients were responsible for **147 reports** sent to the Yellow Card Centre in Wales. There is barely any evaluation of existing patient reporting schemes. Some countries have reported on the numbers and nature of reports but none seemed to have reported on patient experience².

Method

Purposive sampling used to target those most at risk of having an ADR i.e. the elderly, those with a long term illness and those in poverty². Census data was used to locate the electoral wards of Cardiff that had highest and lowest density of each risk group and then **questionnaires were hand-delivered** to approximately 66 randomly selected houses in each electoral ward.

Results

There was a **14% response rate** (n=55), evenly distributed between gender and those with a limiting long term illness. The mean age of respondents was 50. Two participants were qualified health care professionals, one being a Pharmacist. Twenty eight participants had experienced an ADR themselves however, **only 4%** of participants had reported their ADR through the Yellow Card Scheme (YCS). 96% of respondents said if they were to experience an ADR in the future they would report it to their doctor. 15% said they would **report an ADR to the MHRA**. 16% (n=9) had heard of the YCS, only 2 had reported an ADR through the scheme. **56% requested to learn more** about the YCS whilst 58% preferred the method of learning to be via an online method.

Discussion

The **public needs more information** regarding ADR reporting through Yellow Card Scheme to help improve pharmacovigilance.

Adverse Drug Reaction reporting should be encouraged through easy, new, up to date methods such as social media, online and through smart phone apps.

References

1. NICE. Adverse Drug Reactions. NICE; 2012 [accessed 10th November]. Available from: <http://cks.nice.org.uk/adverse-drug-reactions>.
2. Blenkinsopp A, Wilkie P, Wang M, Routledge PA. Patient reporting of suspected adverse drug reactions: a review of published literature and international experience. Br J Clin Pharmacol. 2007 Feb;63(2):148-56.