

S04-2 Pharmacists' Role in the Infection Control Team and an Evaluation of its Outcome

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Pharmacists are required to support an infection control team (ICT) for the prevention of healthcare-associated infections, focusing on preventing drugs from being contaminated and ensuring the proper use of drugs such as disinfectants and antimicrobials. With a heightened awareness of healthcare-associated infection control practices, many pharmacists are involved in various activities as members of the ICT; however, it is important to identify the pharmacists' role in the ICT activities and to evaluate their outcome. For example, disinfectants are likely to be more readily used than other drugs. If the use of disinfectants can be reduced by no longer excessively disinfecting the environment, we should see a positive economic outcome. On the other hand, although proper storage and handling of drugs are important in preventing the contamination of infusion fluid, it is difficult to evaluate the outcome of this effort because it is taken for granted that there is no contamination of infusion fluid. What about antimicrobials? While pharmacists must identify the levels of aggregate use of antimicrobials, can they make an appropriate evaluation based only on the frequency with which a drug is used? The actual status of each hospital should be considered when performing infection control practices. That is, since the role played by pharmacists varies from hospital to hospital, each hospital's ICT outcome must be independently evaluated. In this symposium, we report on the pharmacists' role in the ICT activity and its outcome in Nagano Red Cross Hospital. We also discuss the evaluation method of the pharmacists' role within the ICT.