Title: SALKO – medication review tool for community pharmacies
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By: LEIKOLA, Saija (Association of Finnish Pharmacies, Helsinki, Finland)
Co-author(s): Salimäki, JOHANNA (Association of Finnish Pharmacies, Helsinki, Finland)
               Teinilä, TUULA (Association of Finnish Pharmacies, Helsinki, Finland)
               Peura, SIRPA (Association of Finnish Pharmacies, Helsinki, Finland)

Abstract:
Background: Patients with high age or polypharmacy have special medication safety risks. Thus, their medications should be reviewed regularly.
Aims: The aim was to develop an electronic medication review tool to assist community pharmacists to evaluate medication-related risks among elderly patients.
Methods: Development of Salko started in the Association of Finnish Pharmacies in 2009. The properties included in the database were selected because of their well-known risks among geriatric patients. Multiple data sources were used to develop the contents of Salko.
Results: The Salko medication review tool includes all medications available for outpatient care in Finland. When the tool is used, medications are organized according to their anatomical-therapeutic-chemical (ATC) classification code to ease recognition of unnecessary duplication. In addition, Salko includes 5 actual properties for each medication: 1) red triangle that indicates impaired ability to drive i.e., sedative effect; 2) anticholinergic effect; 3) serotonergic effect; 4) appropriateness for elderly patients based on 4 different criteria; and 5) metabolism via 6 different CYP-enzymes. Used references are mentioned for each note. Salko-tool has been available for community pharmacies since spring 2012 and it is updated regularly.
Conclusion: Salko is a multi-function review tool, which can be utilized in community pharmacies during medication reviews as well as normal dispensing and patient counselling process. Procedures regarding the use of Salko should always be agreed on both in the pharmacy and with local health care.