Impact of Pharmaceutical Interventions in Hospitalized Patients: A Comparative Study Between Clinical Pharmacists and an Explicit Criteria-Based Tool

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received 10 August 2021
Accepted 22 October 2021

Keywords:
CLEO
pharmaceutical interventions
PIM-Check
potentially inappropriate medication list
prescribing errors

ABSTRACT

Background: It has been well recognized that pharmaceutical interventions (PIs) can prevent patient harm related to prescribing errors. Various tools have been developed to facilitate the detection and the reduction of inappropriate prescriptions and some have shown benefit on clinical outcomes.

Objective: The objective of this study was to evaluate the clinical, economical, and organizational impact of interventions generated by clinical pharmacists in hospitalized patients, and to evaluate the performance of an explicit tool, the Potentially Inappropriate Medication Checklist for Patients in Internal Medicine (PIM-Check), in detecting each pharmacist’s intervention.

Methods: A cohort retrospective study was conducted on hospitalized patients. The impact of PIs based on pharmacists’ standard examination was evaluated using the Clinical, Economic, and Organizational (CLEO) tool. The performance of PIM-Check in detecting each intervention was assessed by conducting a retrospective medication review based on available information collected from patients’ records. A qualitative analysis was also conducted to identify the types of PIs that PIM-Check failed to detect.

Results: The study was performed on 162 patients with a median age of 68 years (interquartile range = 46–77 years) and a median hospital stay of 5 days (interquartile range = 4–7 days). The pharmacists generated 1.9 PIs per patient (n = 304) of which 31% were detected by PIM-Check. The acceptance rate of the interventions by physicians was 84% (n = 255). Among the accepted interventions, 53% (n = 136) had a clinical impact graded CL ≥ 2C (moderate or major), whereas the majority of them were not detected by PIM-Check (63%; 86 out of 136). In addition, 46% of accepted interventions (n = 117) were associated with a cost decrease, among which 62% were not detected by PIM-Check (73 out of 117). The qualitative analysis shows that PIM-Check mostly failed to detect PIs related to dose adjustment, over-prescribing, and therapy monitoring.

Conclusions: According to the CLEO tool evaluation of PIs, our results show that clinical pharmacists’ interventions are associated with improved clinical outcomes. In comparison with pharmacists’ interventions, PIM-Check failed in detecting the majority of interventions associated with a moderate or major impact.

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https://doi.org/10.1016/j.curtheres.2021.100650
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Knowledge into Practice

- Very little is known regarding the clinical and economic potential impact of explicit tools in detecting prescribing errors.
- The majority of pharmaceutical interventions detected by pharmacists were not detected by the electronic explicit tool PIM-Check.
- These findings suggest that tools’ detection rate and impact should be assessed carefully to prevent underdetection and gaps improvement should be taken into consideration.

Introduction

Drug-related problems are of major concern in hospitalized patients. Medication errors can concern different stages of the medication process, including prescriptions.1 The reported prevalence of prescribing errors is widely variable, ranging between 2% and 94% depending on medicines’ management process.2 Data from 7 hospitals in Lebanon identified that 46% of medication orders had at least 1 prescribing error.3

Prescribing errors may lead to patients’ injuries and may be a source of increased morbidity, mortality, and health care costs.4–8 Harm related to medication errors, among which are prescribing errors, are called preventable adverse drug events (pADEs).8

The incidence of pADEs might be reduced by medication reviews led by clinical pharmacists.3,10 Among the major outputs of medication review is the generation of pharmaceutical interventions (PIs) and recommendations to health care professionals. A PI is defined as “any activity undertaken by the pharmacist which benefits the patient.”11 PIs can interfere on prescribing errors to prevent their negative outcomes and optimize therapy. PIs can significantly reduce pADEs, hospital length of stay, costs, and increases efficacy of drug therapy.12–14

Several tools have been developed to help detect prescribing errors, some of which exist in electronic support forms.5,14–16 In the present study, we focus on a recent electronic explicit criteria-based open-source tool, the Potentially Inappropriate Medication checklist for Patients in Internal Medicine (PIM-Check) (www.pimcheck.org), which is a prescription-screening checklist developed by an international panel of experts to help detect prescribing errors in adult inpatients. PIM-Check contains 160 criteria: 74 related to underprescribing; 36 related to overprescribing; 16 related to drug-drug interactions; and 34 related to other criteria concerning drug monitoring, dose adjustment, and choice of medication.5,15

The benefit of explicit tools in detecting and reducing the number of inappropriate prescriptions has been well examined.17,18 Yet few reports have been able to prove the clinical impact of such interventions.14 The assessment of the impact of PIs is essential to evaluate and emphasize their value in enhancing medication safety.15 The Clinical, Economic, and Organizational (CLEO) tool is a multidimensional, validated tool developed by the French Society of Clinical Pharmacy to assess the potential impact of PIs.20 The CLEO tool20 was developed to evaluate the potential effect of PIs and includes 3 independent dimensions: clinical dimension from the patient’s point of view (CL), economic dimension from the hospital setting point of view (E), and organizational dimension from the health care providers’ point of view (O).

The primary objective of this study was to evaluate the clinical, economical and organizational impact of PIs generated by clinical pharmacists in hospitalized patients, and to evaluate the performance of PIM-Check in detecting each PI. This comparison will identify potentially missing criteria with relevant impact. The secondary objective was to characterize the type of PIs not detected by the explicit tool.

Patients and Methods

Study population

A cohort retrospective study was conducted including patients hospitalized between April and June 2018 in a 158-bed hospital in Lebanon. Patients aged 18 years and older, admitted to acute medical care in the internal medicine ward and who benefitted from a PI documented by the clinical pharmacists in patients’ records were included, whereas patients not subject to PI during this period were excluded. The institutional review board approved the study protocol. Informed consent from patients was not required because the interventions were considered part of the hospital patients’ care.

Data

Patient information was extracted from computerized patient records by a clinical pharmacist and anonymized. Collected data included information on sociodemographic characteristics (eg, sex, age, body mass index), lifestyle (eg, alcohol use and smoking), medications, comorbidities, laboratory results, and the documented PI.

PI evaluation

As a part of routine clinical patient care in the examined hospital, medication reviews are conducted by clinical pharmacists. When relevant, PIs are generated and communicated to physicians through the computerized patient records. PIs are considered as accepted by physicians if a change in the patient’s management or therapy is done.

In this study, each included patient had at least 1 PI. For the purpose of this analysis, medications related to a PI were classified by the pharmacist, using the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) Classification System of the World Health Organization. The identified PIs were categorized according to the Swiss Association of Public Health Administration and Hospital Pharmacists (GSASA) classification scheme, therapy initiation, overprescribing, substitution, dose adjustment, therapy monitoring, change of administration route, optimization of administration, counseling of patient/training, information to caregivers, clarification in the patient record, and report to pharmacovigilance center. The development of the GSASA classification system was based on the instrument for documentation of clinical pharmacists’ interventions of the French Society of Clinical Pharmacy and the Pharmaceutical Care Network Europe classification system.

PIM-Check evaluation

For each included patient, a medication review was performed retrospectively by a clinical pharmacist using PIM-Check based on the information collected from the patient record. If at least 1 inappropriate prescription detected by PIM-Check corresponded to a PI generated by the pharmacist, the latter was considered as “detected by PIM-Check,” otherwise it was considered as “not detected by PIM-Check.”

CLEO evaluation

Only PIs accepted by physicians were assessed using the CLEO version 3 tool20 to classify their potential impact in the 3 dimensions (clinical, economic, and organizational). Each dimension consists of several numeric levels (negative, zero, and positive values) and an open level “not determined” representing the significance level of the interventions: clinical (6 numeric levels: from –1C to
Results

A total of 162 patients were included during the 3-month study period of which 56% (n = 90) were female patients; the population median age was 68 years (interquartile range [IQR]=46–77) among which the majority (n=90; 56%) was aged ≥ 65 years. The median hospital stay was 5 days (IQR=4–7 days). The majority of patients were overweight or obese (body mass index ≥25), and a minority were smokers and alcohol consumers (Table 1).

PIs

The number of PIs generated by the clinical pharmacist was 304 (1.9 PI/patient), with an acceptance rate by physician of 84%; that is, 255 PIs in 162 patients (1.6 PI/patient).

PIM-Check detected 31% of these PIs (94 among the 304 PIs) with 77% of them labeled “accepted by the physician” (72 among the 94 PIs identified). Similar percentages were identified in the subgroup of patients aged 65 years and older (Table 2).

The most common drugs targeted by PIs according to the ATC classification (Table 1) were: anti-inflammatory for systemic use (23%; n=70), alimentary tract and metabolism (22%; n=68), cardiovascular system (16%; n=50), and blood and blood-forming organs (14%; n=42), and nervous system (10%; n=30).

The most common types of PI according to GSASA classification (Table 3) were: dose adjustment (31%; n=93), overprescribing (23%; n=71), therapy initiation (11%; n=32), information to caregivers (10%; n=30), clarification in the patient record (8%; n=25), and therapy monitoring (8%; n=25).

Potential clinical, economic and organizational impact of PIs

Potential impact of all accepted PIs

Among the accepted PIs (n=255), 53% (n=136) had a potential clinical impact graded ≥ 2C (moderate or major). No lethal (4C) clinical impact was identified. In addition, 46% of accepted PIs (n=117) were associated with a potential cost decrease (‘a decrease of cost’ 1E). Regarding the care process, 34% of accepted PI (n=86) had a favorable (10) potential impact on the organization.

Table 1

| Sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of the study population. |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Baseline characteristic   | Result                   |
| Sex                       |
| Male                     | 72 (44)                  |
| Female                   | 90 (56)                  |
| Age, y†                  |
| 20–64                    | 68 (46–77)               |
| 65–100                   | 72 (44)                  |
| BMI‡                     |
| < 18.50                  | 27 (24–31)               |
| ≥ 18.50                  | 90 (56)                  |
| Underweight < 18.50°     | 0 (0)                    |
| Normal range 18.50–24.99° | 59 (36)                 |
| Overweight 25.00–29.99°  | 50 (31)                  |
| Obese ≥ 30.00°           | 53 (33)                  |
| Alcohol use             |
| Yes                      | 15 (9)                   |
| No                       | 145 (90)                 |
| Previous                 |
| Yes                      | 43 (27)                  |
| No                       | 99 (61)                  |
| Ex-smokers               |
| Yes                      | 20 (12)                  |
| No                       | 122 (78)                 |
| Hospital stay, d†        |
| < 5                      | 72 (44)                  |
| ≥ 5                      | 90 (56)                  |
| Total                    | 162 (100)                |
| ATC class of medication targeted by PI† |
| Anti-infective for systemic use | 70 (23) |
| Alimentary tract and metabolism | 68 (22) |
| Cardiovascular system    | 50 (16)                  |
| Blood and blood forming organs | 42 (14) |
| Nervous system           | 30 (10)                  |
| Antineoplastic and immunomodulating agents | 17 (6) |
| Other medications        | 8 (3)                    |
| Respiratory system       | 7 (2)                    |
| Systemic hormonal preparations, excluding sex hormones and insulin | 6 (2) |
| Musculoskeletal system   | 6 (2)                    |
| Total                    | 304 (100)                |

ATC = anatomical therapeutic chemical. BMI = body mass index; PI = pharmaceutical intervention.

* Values are presented as n (%).
† Values are presented as median (interquartile range).

Among the accepted PI in patients aged 65 years and older (n = 147), 60% (n = 88 PIs) had a potential clinical impact graded ≥ 2C (moderate or major). In addition, 47% of accepted PIs in patients aged 65 years and older (n = 70) were associated with a potential cost decrease. Regarding the care process, 33% of accepted PIs in patients aged 65 years and older (n = 48) had a favorable (10) potential impact on the organization (Table 4).

Potential impact of accepted PIs “not detected by PIM-Check”

The majority of accepted PIs graded ≥ 2C were “not detected by PIM-Check” (63%; 86 out of 136 PIs). In addition, 62% of accepted PIs associated with a cost decrease were “not detected by PIM-Check” (73 out of 117 PIs).

Among the accepted PIs graded ≥ 2C in patients aged 65 years and older, the majority were “not detected by PIM-Check” (58%; 51 out of 88 PIs). In addition, 56% of accepted PIs associated with a cost decrease in patients aged 65 years and older were “not detected by PIM-Check” (39 out of 70 PIs) (Table 4).

Inter-rater evaluation

The classification of PI impact was reliable with Krippendorff’s α = 0.898 (95% CI, 0.875–0.920) for clinical impact, Krippendorff’s α = 0.929 (95% CI, 0.897–0.959) for economic impact and Krippendorff’s α = 0.794 (95% CI, 0.739–0.846) for organizational impact.

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Table 2
Classification of pharmaceutical interventions (PIs).

| Variable                      | PI  | Not detected by PIM-Check | Detected by PIM-Check |
|-------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Full sample                   |     |                           |                       |
| Accepted                      | 255 (84) | 183                        | 72                    |
| Not accepted                  | 49 (16)  | 27                         | 22                    |
| Total                         | 304 (100) | 210 (69)                 | 94 (31)               |
| Subgroup of older patients (age ≥ 65 y) |     |                           |                       |
| Accepted                      | 147 (83) | 98                         | 49                    |
| Not accepted                  | 30 (17)  | 17                         | 13                    |
| Total                         | 177 (100) | 115 (65)                 | 62 (35)               |

PIM-Check = Potentially Inappropriate Medication Checklist for Patients in Internal Medicine.

* Values are presented as n (%).

Table 3
Number of pharmaceutical interventions (PIs) by category, class, and clinical impact.

| Type of intervention                | PI  | Accepted PI | Accepted PI (No. with CL ≥ 2)* |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-------------|--------------------------------|
|                                     |     |             |                                |
| Categories present in the tool      |     |             |                                |
| Dose adjustment                     | 93  | 75          | 47 (23)                        |
| Overprescribing                     | 71  | 59          | 40 (18)                        |
| Therapy initiation                  | 32  | 22          | 5 (1)                          |
| Therapy monitoring                  | 25  | 20          | 12 (10)                        |
| Optimization of administration      | 17  | 17          | 17 (6)                         |
| Change of administration route      | 6   | 5           | 5 (2)                          |
| Substitution                        | 5   | 4           | 4 (4)                          |
| Categories not present in the tool  |     |             |                                |
| Information to caregivers           | 30  | 28          | 28 (20)                        |
| Clarification in the patient record | 25  | 25          | 25 (2)                         |
| Total                               | 304 | 255         | 183 (86)                       |

CL = clinical impact; PIM-Check = Potentially Inappropriate Medication Checklist for Patients in Internal Medicine.

* CL ≥ 2 indicates a clinically relevant PI.

Table 4
Impact of accepted pharmaceutical interventions using the Clinical, Economic, and Organizational (CLEO) tool.

| CLEO result                        | Accepted PI (n = 255) | Not detected (n = 183) | Detected (n = 72) | P value |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| Full sample                        |                       |                        |                   | < 0.001 |
| Harmful (-1C)                      | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                  | 0 (0)             |         |
| Null (0C)                          | 37 (15)               | 36 (20)                | 1 (2)             |         |
| Minor (1C)                         | 82 (32)               | 61 (33)                | 21 (29)           |         |
| Moderate (2C)                      | 70 (27)               | 54 (30)                | 16 (22)           |         |
| Major (3C)                         | 66 (26)               | 32 (17)                | 34 (47)           |         |
| Vital (4C)                         | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                  | 0 (0)             |         |
| Not determined                     | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                  | 0 (0)             |         |
| Economic impact (score)            |                       |                        |                   | < 0.001 |
| Increase of cost (-1E)             | 87 (34)               | 60 (33)                | 27 (38)           |         |
| No change (0E)                     | 51 (20)               | 50 (27)                | 1 (1)             |         |
| Decrease of cost (1E)              | 117 (46)              | 73 (40)                | 44 (61)           |         |
| Not determined                     | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                  | 0 (0)             |         |
| Organizational impact (score)      |                       |                        |                   | 0.751   |
| Not favorable (-1O)                | 71 (28)               | 51 (28)                | 20 (28)           |         |
| Null (0O)                          | 98 (38)               | 68 (37)                | 30 (42)           |         |
| Favorable (1O)                     | 86 (34)               | 64 (35)                | 22 (30)           |         |
| Not determined                     | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                  | 0 (0)             |         |
| Subgroup of older patients (age ≥ 65 y) | (n = 147) | (n = 98) | (n = 49) | < 0.001 |
| Harmful (-1C)                      | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                  | 0 (0)             |         |
| Null (0C)                          | 15 (10)               | 15 (15)                | 0 (0)             |         |
| Minor (1C)                         | 44 (30)               | 32 (33)                | 12 (24)           |         |
| Moderate (2C)                      | 45 (31)               | 32 (33)                | 13 (27)           |         |
| Major (3C)                         | 43 (29)               | 19 (19)                | 24 (49)           |         |
| Vital (4C)                         | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                  | 0 (0)             |         |
| Not determined                     | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                  | 0 (0)             |         |
| Economic impact (score)            |                       |                        |                   | < 0.001 |
| Increase of cost (-1E)             | 54 (37)               | 36 (37)                | 18 (37)           |         |
| No change (0E)                     | 23 (16)               | 23 (23)                | 0 (0)             |         |
| Decrease of cost (1E)              | 70 (47)               | 39 (40)                | 31 (63)           |         |
| Not determined                     | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                  | 0 (0)             |         |
| Organizational impact (score)      |                       |                        |                   | 0.772   |
| Not favorable (-1O)                | 42 (28)               | 29 (29)                | 13 (26)           |         |
| Null (0O)                          | 57 (39)               | 36 (37)                | 21 (43)           |         |
| Favorable (1O)                     | 48 (33)               | 33 (34)                | 15 (31)           |         |
| Not determined                     | 0 (0)                 | 0 (0)                  | 0 (0)             |         |

PI = pharmaceutical interventions.
Evaluation of the type of PI

The 183 PIs “not detected by PIM-Check” were related to different types of intervention (Table 3): information to caregivers and clarification in the patient record (n = 53), dose adjustment (n = 47), overprescribing (n = 40), therapy monitoring (n = 12), optimization of administration (n = 17), change of administration route (n = 5), therapy initiation (n = 5), and substitution (n = 4).

Among interventions on dose adjustment, the most common PIs “not detected by PIM-Check” were related to unnecessary anticoagulant agents (eg, in patients with low risk of developing a venous thromboembolism) and to drug contraindications due to specific patients’ conditions (eg, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs). Among interventions on therapy monitoring, the most common PIs “not detected by PIM-Check” were related to therapeutic drug monitoring (eg, antiepileptics), to monitoring of some laboratory tests (eg, potassium and platelets) and to monitoring of electrolytes in case of electrolytes replenishment. Among interventions on optimization of administration, the most common PIs “not detected by PIM-Check” were related to drug dilution and drug infusion rate to prevent burning sensation, phlebitis, or allergies (eg, vancomycin, intravenous immunoglobulin, and potassium chloride). Among interventions on change of administration route, PIM-Check failed to detect PI related to cost-effectiveness pharmacoeconomics of route switching when possible. Among interventions on therapy initiation, PIM-Check failed to detect PIs related to the need of proton-pump inhibitors, to the addition of certain medication according to patients’ vital signs (eg, beta blockers in patients with tachycardia), and to the requirement of vitamins and minerals (eg, vitamin D and calcium). Among interventions on substitution, PIM-Check failed to detect PIs related to drug allergies.

The qualitative analysis shows that among the PI with a significant clinical impact that were not detected by PIM-Check (86 PIs graded ≥ 2C), 59% were related to dose adjustment, overprescribing, and therapy monitoring.

Discussion

This study evaluated the potential impact of PIs generated by the pharmacists and show the partial usefulness of supporting tools. Among the PIs suggested to physicians, an important proportion was indeed “not detected by PIM-Check” and among the undetected PIs, an important percentage was considered of moderate or major clinical impact (ie, ≥ 2C).

Our findings regarding the significant potential clinical impact of PIs are consistent with the existing limited data. Some studies demonstrated a positive impact of pharmacists’ interventions on clinical outcomes. The limited amount of evidence on the clinical impact of such intervention is probably due to the complexity in conducting such studies requiring large cohorts of patients. The overall results of the potential impact of PIs in our study is in good agreement with a study that assessed the potential impact of PI using CLEO on 150 hospitalized patients in a French university hospital. In that study, the number of PIs was inferior (11 vs 1.9 PI/patient), whereas the percentage of PIs with a potential clinical impact ≥ 2C was higher than our results (68% vs 53%). This could reflect the variability in the pharmacist’s assessment, some will generate fewer PIs but of higher impact. Similar to our findings, the overall prescriber’s acceptance rate was 86%. The interrater reliability for the clinical impact score was lower (0.822 vs 0.898). The PIs with high potential impact emphasize the utility of such interventions.

Another study compared the acceptance rate of PIs generated by a standard pharmacist evaluation on treatment plans stemming from 102 patients hospitalized in a geriatric psychiatry in a Swiss University Hospital to PIs generated by the explicit Screening Tool of Older Persons’ Prescriptions/Screening Tool to Alert to Right Treatment (STOPP/START) version 1 criteria. In that study, the number of PIs generated by the pharmacist (4.4 PI/patient) was higher than STOPP/START (2.4 PI/patient). It was performed in a different setting (enrolled population mean age and length of stay: 80 years and 15 days vs 68 years and 5 days in our study) resulting in a higher number of PIs. Similarly, to our observation, the PIs detection rate was higher with the standard pharmacist evaluation, then with the explicit tool alone. Unlike our findings (acceptance rate of 84%), the higher number of PIs was associated to a lower global acceptance rate of 68% (78% based on standard pharmacist examination and 47% based on STOPP/START). The 4 most common types of accepted PI based on standard pharmacist evaluation in both studies, according to GSASA classification, were information to caregivers (23% in this study vs 11%), dose adjustment (17% vs 29%), overprescribing (15% vs 23%), and clarification in the patient record (12% vs 10%). Because the impact of PIs was not evaluated in this study, it is impossible to determine whether or not this lower acceptance rate was correlated to higher number of PIs with low impact.

The available literature evaluating the use of PIM-Check includes 3 studies, among which 2 studies compared retrospectively the rate of detection of prescribing errors between 2 tools, PIM-Check and STOPP/START. The first was conducted in a geriatric population and the second in internal medicine settings. The third study evaluated the variation of inappropriate prescribing, during hospitalization, using PIM-Check. These studies did not evaluate the impact of PIM-Check on clinical outcomes.

In our study, PIM-Check did not detect a proportion of PI with low (null or minor) and important (moderate or major) clinical impact. If it is acceptable to exclude those with low impact (CL < 2) to increase specificity and decrease superfluous alerts, PIs with high impact (CL ≥ 2) should be detected by explicit tools to raise sensitivity and increase patient safety. Thus, additional criteria enabling the detection of some types of interventions could be added to improve the clinical impact of the explicit tool. If it is obvious that an explicit tool cannot generate PIs related to “information to caregivers” and “clarification in the patient record” (Table 3), these PIs remain significant, which reinforces the need for pharmacists in hospital services. Other types of PI could be easily added to an explicit tool, especially because it is built on an electronic support. Our study identified 3 types of PIs associated to a high undetected rate and important clinical impact using PIM-Check: “dose adjustment,” “overprescribing,” and “therapy monitoring.” These 3 types constitute 59% of the PIs graded ≥ 2C not detected by PIM-Check (51 PIs among 86 PIs).

PIM-Check detected a relatively low percentage of PIs (31%). PIM-Check detected a minority in all types of PI (Table 3), except in “therapy initiation,” it detected the majority (17 vs 5). This could be explained by the fact that PIM-Check tool targets preferentially underprescribing (prescribing omission) and thus tends by design to recommend treatment initiation.

This study had some strength because it is the first study that identified missed PIs with an explicit tool, and classified them according to their types and impact but had some limitations, too. First, the study design did not allow us to evaluate the impact (using CLEO) of interventions “detected by PIM-Check” but missed by the pharmacist. Second, the observational and retrospective nature of the study did not allow us to assess the added potential benefit of using PIM-Check by a clin-
clical pharmacist (prospectively), on prevalence of pADEs and on pharmacoeconomics.

Conclusions

This study shows that PIs have a significant clinical impact and hence are essential in preventing patient harm related to prescribing errors. The electronic, explicit tool PIM-Check did not detect a significant proportion of PIs of moderate or major clinical impact. The risk of underdetection associated with the inherent characteristics of explicit tools should be carefully assessed in clinical settings. However, PIM-Check and other such tools can be viewed as a supportive approach for the systematic evaluation of medication in reducing time and cost of pharmacutual management.

Acknowledgments

The authors thank Maissa Issa, B.Comm. for English editing.

Author contribution statements

Study design was conducted by A. Farhat, R. Abou-Karroum, A. Panchaud, C. Csajka, and A. Al-Hajje; data collection conducted by R. Abou-Karroum; data analysis was conducted by A. Farhat and R. Abou-Karroum; drafting of the manuscript was conducted by A. Farhat; and revision of the manuscript was conducted by A. Farhat, R. Abou-Karroum, A. Panchaud, C. Csajka, and A. Al-Hajje.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors have indicated that they have no conflicts of interest regarding the content of this article.

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