

The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Seminar Series 2009/10

'Dysphagia: Identifying and valuing the role of the pharmacist.'

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Abstract

Tablets and capsules are currently the preferred formulations for administering medicines to patients due to their convenience, acceptability and relatively inexpensive production costs. Patients with dysphagia, physical impairment of swallowing, or a psychological aversion to tablet swallowing are frequently prescribed tablets or capsules although these may not be the most ideal formulations and can result in inappropriate patient and administrator behaviours such as tablet crushing.

The presentation will include data on medicines tampering and related issues, the views of patients with dysphagia on their medicines and data from a recent study where 2129 medication administrations to 625 patients were observed on care of the elderly and stroke wards in four acute hospital trusts. Recently funded studies to improve medicines administration in patients with dysphagia, patented work on a swallowing aid and the use of the electronic tongue to determine the taste of medicines will all be briefly described.