

The pharmacist's role in HIV care in France

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In France, antiretroviral treatment (ARV) can be dispensed by hospitals and/or community pharmacies. A recent study published in *Pharmacology Research & Perspectives* examined the pharmacist's role in HIV care in this country.

For the study, 2 national surveys were sent. The first was an anonymous questionnaire for people living with HIV, and the second was an [online survey](#) for community and hospital pharmacies. A total of 1,137 people living with HIV and 246 pharmacies responded.

The surveys pertained to medication interviews with pharmacists during ARV dispensing, where [patients](#) could receive explanations about efficacy and tolerance, recommendations for proper use of their medication, and advice about any [drug interactions](#). The surveys also pertained to online patient medication files. When these files are offered by pharmacists and accepted by patients covered by [health insurance](#), they can be used to record all the drugs dispensed during the previous four months. A patient's file thus constitutes a tool for coordinating prescriptions, generating advice, and identifying precautions in the use of different medications.

While the existence of the online medication file was known by 58% of people living with HIV, only 40% of pharmacists declared it to be systematically offered. It was offered to 17% of people living with HIV, and 80% of those people accepted it. Only 7% of people living with HIV felt well taken care of because they were offered medication interviews, but 32% said they would like to take advantage of this program. The results suggest the need for better implementation of medication files and interviews.

More information: *Pharmacology Research & Perspectives*, onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/prp2.629

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