The activities of the
Brazilian Drug Information Center in 2000
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INTRODUCTION

There are some ways to promote and improve the rational use of drugs like a policy of essential drugs, education, drug information, etc. In drug information, it has been identified that a useful step it’s to set up and develop a Drug Information Center(DIC). The purpose of this work is to show the activities of the Brazilian Drug Information Center (CEBRIM/CFF) in 2000 and project how these activities help in the rational use of drugs.

METHODS

To describe the activities CEBRIM/CFF developed in 2000 by using its produced materials, including the annual report, and judge their contribution to reach its goals.

RESULTS

Reactive (passive) information

850 requests were received/answered. Out of these, 68.9% from pharmacists. In Graphic 1 can be seen the growth number of requests since 1995 to 2000.

The inquiries were mainly from hospitals, 32.7%, and community pharmacies, 19.5% (Graphic 2).

Out of 1107 (100%) questions (one request could has more than one question), 11.2% were related to identification, 11.2% were related to indication of use, 7.4% were related to ADR, 7.0% were related to general pharmacology and 7.0% were related to law (health).

Out of 449 (100%) different drugs requested, according the Anathomical Therapeutic Chemistry (ATC) classification system, they belonged to: Alimentary tract and metabolism (A), 19.6%; General antinfectives for systemic use (J), 18.9%; Nervous system, 17.1%; Blood and blood forming organs (B), 8.5%; Cardiovascular system (C), 6.0%, Dermatologicals (D), 5.3% and others, 24.6%.

CONCLUSION

The reactive information is still the main activity and there are others which are growing, like publishing papers and training pharmacists and university students. Other activities were planned but the ones developed show a regular fulfillment of the annual planning. As an area of drug information, part of drug policy, they may be useful to promote the rational use of drugs. Otherwise, the activities described shows that there are a long way forward to bring drug information using different approaches.