

Information for parents about their child's medication: does it meet their needs?

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Background

- Almost **50% of children** receive **≥1 prescriptions** per year from the general practitioner (GP).
- Parents need **accessible and understandable medication information** to support their children in their medication use.
- Not much is known about **how parents value the information** they obtain about their child's medication.

Aim





To explore to what extent the provided and found information about medication meets the needs of parents of children who use chronic medication.

Mixed methods

-  **Video observations** 14 videotaped encounters between pharmacy technician (PT) and parent collecting medication for child
-  **Information on websites** 4 well-known websites for medication and symptoms & conditions were analyzed
-  **Online survey** 65 parents fully completed survey on their information needs and preferences
-  **Individual interviews** 8 semi-structured interviews with parents



Results

-  PTs gave information about medication in all encounters, but parents' concerns were hardly discussed
 -  Information on websites mainly aimed at parents, limited use of videos or illustrations about disease or medication
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- In the interviews and survey, parents indicated to receive most medication information from the GP and pharmacist. If they search for info, these healthcare providers are also the first source. They complement this with information on the internet and package leaflet. This aligns with their opinion of the ideal information source being a combi of verbal, written and digital information. Most parents judged the provided and found information as accessible and understandable. An information source aimed at children was missed most.

Conclusion

Parents are positive about the available information for their child's medication (use). They suggest to aim information also directly at children, so that the children themselves can also learn more about their medication, which might benefit their understanding and adherence.