The Relevance of Training in the Supply Chain Management of Pharmaceutical Products

Ibelema Samantha Emeh

Setax Training & Consultancy Ltd UK

Key words

- Supply Chain Management
- Training

Definition of Training

Training is the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and competencies as a result of the teaching of vocational or practical skills and knowledge that relate to specific useful competencies.

Training has specific goals of improving one's:

capability,

capacity

productivity

performance.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/training

Organised activity aimed at imparting information and /or instructions to improve the recipient performance or to help attain and retain a required level of knowledge / skill required for a specific job activity.

www.businessdictionary.com

Supply Chain Management

This is the management of the flow of goods. It includes the movement and storage of raw materials, (APIs, Excipients, Packaging etc) work-in-process inventory, and finished goods from point of origin to point of consumption- the end user of the product.

Interconnected or interlinked networks, channels and node businesses are involved in the provision
of products and services required by end customers in a supply chain.

Andreas Wieland, Carl Marcus Wallenburg (2011): *Supply-Chain-Management in stürmischen Zeiten*. Berlin.

Activities involved in Supply Chain Management

Supply Chain Management involves the:

1. Design
2. Planning
3. Execution
4. Control
5. Monitoring of supply chain activities

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Why is training of personnel Important to Supply Chain Management

Pharmaceutical supply chains are becoming increasingly complex and convoluted because the medicine can be handled throughout its lifecycle via the following stages:

1. Development
2. Manufacture
3. Quality Control Testing
4. Labelling

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5. Packaging
6. Storage
7. Distribution,
8. Marketing and Sales (Wholesalers, Retailers and Hospitals)

   which involves multitude of contract and subcontract organisations in various physical and virtual locations.

References

- Harland, C.M. (1996) Supply Chain Management, Purchasing and Supply Management, Logistics, Vertical Integration, Materials Management and Supply Chain Dynamics. In: Slack, N (ed.) Blackwell Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Operations Management. UK: Blackwell.

The Implications of the Involvement of these Various Contract and Subcontract Organisations

The logistical issues are extremely challenging as the onus is on the manufacturer / MA Holder to ensure there is adequate traceability, interface and compliance of each contractor/subcontractor role in the supply chain management of the product.

This task is becoming increasingly difficult given the alarming rise in the international counterfeiting activities of pharmaceutical medicines.

The Supply Chain Management process is an integrated process as each aspect of the chain is interdependent on each other.

Therefore it will not come as big surprise that proper training of personnel to current Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and Good Distribution Practice (GDP) is integral to successful operation of the supply chains.

The personnel involved each of these processes need to fully comprehend what their tasks involve and this can only be achieved by the appropriate training.

The Benefits of having Trained Staff

- One of the key requirements of Good Manufacturing Practice and Good Distribution Practice – Effiecient Quality Management System
- The appropriate gives confidence to potential and existing clients
- Provides credibility during a GMP audit inspection

- Each entity in the chain can confidently rely on its partner.
- Compliance to the Falsiifed Medicines Directive

The end user the patient is confident that the pharmaceutical product purchase/dispensed is genuine, of the the right quality and efficacious.

Conclusion

- Training of personnel is essential for Supply Chain Management of Pharmaceutical Products.