

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**THE PERSPECTIVE OF KEDAH
COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS REGARDING POTENTIALLY
INAPPROPRIATE GERIATRIC MEDICATIONS**

IRHAM BIN BOKHARI

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ABSTRACT

This research's objectives are to investigate the level of knowledge on PIMs/PIPs among the community pharmacists and to evaluate the use of validated screening tools for PIMs/PIPs (STOPP and Beers criteria) in community pharmacy practice. The designed and approved questionnaire will be distributed to the respondent by hands, mail or using the internet. The respondent will be informed first about this project and will be asked to participate. Their responds will be collected by hands, mail or using the internet. The final score from the results will be computed. The result showed that most of the drugs Beers criteria were dispensed with varying level of comfortable. Geriatric Attitude Scale also assessed and showed positive score 47.21. Familiarity, factors, preferred sources of information and measures that could used to reduce PIMs were also assessed. The respondents are most familiar with physiological changes among the elderly, and chose the lack of knowledge in PIM as a major factor. Internet and websites chosen as the most preferred source of information and by reviewing patient's medication measure, the PIM can be reduced. As a conclusion, community pharmacists in Kedah generally have positive attitudes towards geriatric but have lack of knowledge about the geriatric pharmacy.

KNOWLEDGE OF COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS ON POTENTIALLY INAPPROPRIATE GERIATRIC MEDICATIONS IN KEDAH, MALAYSIA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Nowadays, the numbers of elderly people is increasing and they made up of a large percentage of the world's population. Potentially inappropriate prescribing is highly prevalent among the elderly (L. L. Chen, Tangiisuran, Shafie, & Hassali, 2012). Adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are frequently identified among the elderly. ADR among the elderly could cause dangerous risks to them and may be fatal therefore should be avoid if possible.

The health practitioners play important roles in a geriatric patient care, but in medication, pharmacists are generally the one who are held responsible. The role of pharmacists has been proved in reducing adverse drug event among patients post-hospitalization as stated by (Schnipper JL, 2006).

In Malaysia, there is no study that has been carried out to evaluate community pharmacist's knowledge on PIPs and PIMs. This study will explore the level of knowledge among the community pharmacist students on issues of PIMs and PIPs.