

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**DRUG-RELATED PROBLEMS (DRPs) IN GERIATRICS:
A PRESCRIPTION ANALYSIS**

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ABSTRACT

Background: The reasons why older adults are vulnerable to DRPs are because of changes of physiology that cause by the aging process and it may alter the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamic properties of medications. Second reason is because they often have multimorbidity and are prescribed with a lot of drugs and medications. **Objectives:** this study is conducted to evaluate the occurrence of DRPs in geriatric patients. **Materials and Methods:** A cross sectional study was conducted at outpatient pharmacy department of HTAR. Three months prescriptions were collected to represent the whole year of 2014. **Results:** The most frequent type of DRPs experienced by geriatric patients is unnecessary drug prescribed to patients. Besides, the variable of drug classification may also contribute to the occurrence of DRPs in geriatrics. **Conclusion:** DRPs is an issue in geriatric population and classification of drugs may become risk factor to the occurrence of DRPs in geriatric patients.

Key words: Drug-Related Problems (DRPs), geriatrics

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

The drug-related problem is the undesirable conditions experienced by the patients involved and can interfere the achieving of desired goal of the therapy or interferes with desired patient outcomes (Ding-Cheng Chan, et al., 2011). However, there is no single system of definitions and classification of DRPs that exist yet (Van Mil, et al., 2004). 14 DRP classification systems has been identified by one recent review that has many operationalization strategies. Among these systems, PCNE Classification is the most closely fit the requirements for the optimal classification system (Van Mil, et al., 2004;Pharmaceutical Care Network Europe,2006b). In order for an event to be identified as a DRP, it should have two conditions which are, patients must experience disease or symptomatology. The second, these diseases or symptomatology must have a suspected relationship with drug therapy (Robert J. Cipolle, Linda M. Strand, Peter C. Morley, Pharmaceutical Care Practice (2nd ed.). Minneapolis:Minnesota).

There are two major reasons why older adults are vulnerable to DRPs. (E.A.Davies&M.S.O'Mahony., 2015). The first one is because of changes of