



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**COMMON DRUG PRESCRIBING PATTERN ON COMMON
ILLNESS IN A & E PHARMACY, HOSPITAL TENGKU AMPUAN
RAHIMAH (HTAR) IN DECEMBER 2007**

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APRIL 2008

Abstract

Objective: The aim of this study is to evaluate the prescribing pattern among doctors at the emergency department in Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah (HTAR). **Method:** 800 prescriptions (N=800) received by the pharmacy at the department were included in this study. Those prescriptions were randomly selected from the department over a period of 30 days. **Result:** from 800 prescriptions, 2008 drugs (n=2008) have been prescribed. The mean number of drugs per prescription was 2.51. 56.7% (n=1138) of the drugs were prescribed in generic name. Name of patient, were available in all of the prescriptions. However, age of the patient were absent in 2% of the prescriptions. Besides that patient registration number and identity card number were omitted in 2.9% and 3.5% of prescriptions respectively. Physicians' names and their signature were omitted in 5.5% and 2% of prescriptions, respectively. The most commonly prescribed therapeutic classes of drugs (and principal drug in each class) were as follows: Analgesics & antipyretics (19.87%), Cough & cold remedies (14.34%) and Antibiotics (12.65%). Other therapeutic classes included Antirheumatics (8.37%), Antacids&antiulcerants (8.07%), Antihistamine (7.87%), Antiasthmatics (6.13%) and Anti inflammatory enzymes (5.53%). Other agents prescribed in small proportions of encounters collectively amounted to 21.3%. The most frequently prescribed drugs among the above therapeutic classes were paracetamol (16.09% of all Analgesics & antipyretics), diphenhydramine syrup (58.7% of all Cough & cold remedies), amoxicillin (31.89% of all antibiotics). From 800 prescriptions studied, 100 prescriptions (12.5%) scripts were found to have bad handwriting.

Conclusion: This study reveals the prescription trends, and indicates possible areas of improvement in prescription practice. The prescribing habits of doctors should periodically be analyzed and any change highlighted. This study aims to provide baseline data for monitoring future trends.

Acknowledgement

Asslamualaikum w.b.t

First and foremost I would like to thank you all staff and personnel who helped me a lot during this project. I would like to say thank you to my supervisor or preceptor Pn.Azizah and Pn.Aziah for supervised and guiding me to accomplish this project.

I also would like to thank my parents and colleagues who support me all this while to accomplish this assignment.

I also thank to all staff in this hospital for teaching and support me during my accomplishment of this assignment.

And I also would like to thank to all person who support me direct or indirectly to me to accomplish this assignment.

Finally I would like to thank all the personnel and staff who helped me and thank you for all the co operation that they all give. Thank you.

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Introduction

In Malaysia health care is provided to all residents of the country through primary health care centers and hospitals. Patients gain access to secondary and tertiary care through referral from primary care centers. A&E pharmacy is an out patient department. A&E pharmacy supply and dispense drugs to patient who seek the doctors for emergency cases after office hours and discharge patient from the ward. This department provides service 24 hours.

Rational drug prescribing has been the subject of several studies. The World Health Organization (WHO) compiled a set of core drug use indicators that are useful for studying patterns of drug prescribing in health-care facilities. Prescriptions can be used as legal documents holding the prescribing physician and the dispensing pharmacist responsible for any misconduct in prescribing or dispensing. Therefore, in accordance with health regulations, an ideal prescription should carry all necessary information, such as name, age, and registered number of patient, together with a brief diagnosis of the condition targeted by the drug treatment. In addition, particulars of the prescriber should include name, signature, specialty, and designation. The present study analyzed the prescriptions issued in emergency pharmacy department after office hours. The objective was to investigate the prescribing behavior of consultant physicians. The prescribing of drugs forms an important part of an outpatient practice. It is therefore essential to study the prescribing habits of doctors in order to understand the current prescribing trends and to highlight any deficiencies.