

Med Bull'

No.3/2021



MICRO-CREDENTIAL COURSE



GUIDE TO GOOD PRESCRIBING

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This year, the Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, UiTM has taken up the challenge by ICEPs to produce a microcredential course entitled 'Guide to Good Prescribing Skill. This course is the first-ever micro-credential course developed by the members of the Faculty of Medicine, UiTM.

The course was developed to prevent prescribing errors in newly graduated doctors, which account for a substantial proportion of all medication errors in clinical practice. Furthermore, there is no specific curriculum or program in Malaysia that enforces an understanding of prescribing skills and their safety to medical undergraduates.

This program has resulted in a high number of prescribing errors seen among housemen and junior medical officers.

Furthermore, pharmacology is mainly taught in the preclinical years; the application of this knowledge and the arts of prescribing are not taught adequately in clinical years. This situation potentially contributes to the errors observed while prescribing drugs to patients.



Given the current curriculum, this micro-credential course entitled 'Guide to Good Prescribing Skill' is developed as an online student-centred educational course to supplement the gap in the current medical curriculum program. It enforces the understanding of prescribing skills and their safety to the undergraduates.

This micro-credential course covers the critical steps of Guide to Good Prescribing outlined by the World Health Organization which involved 1) information (WHO), gathering through the patient's history, examination, and investigation to get the proper diagnosis and management plan; 2) writing correct prescription and understanding the legal implications of illegible and wrong prescription; 3) communication skills which involve informing the patient about the drug, giving clear instructions, warnings and explaining the treatment plan and lastly 4) reviewing the treatment response, considering whether to stop or continue the treatment plan, as well as monitoring for any potential adverse effect while on treatment.

This course is suitable for year 3 and 4 medical students before they sit for their final year exams. The course consists of 8 topics, and students will have to sit for pre and post-course assessments. It is designed to be student-centered, in which students are given time to complete the course at their own pace.

In August 2021, the developers participated in the e-CONDEV 2021 competition. The course has been awarded a gold medal award and was also awarded 'Best Micro-Credential Course under Science and Technology'.