## UiTM–Alpro Pharmacy Strengthens Commitment to Safe Medication Disposal through National Blueprint Engagement

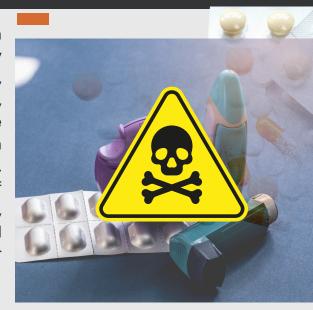
By: Dr. Hisyam Abdul Hamid Mr. Mohd Shahiri Abdul Ghapar (Pharmacy Practice and Development Division, MOH)



The engagement session on refining the blueprint for Initiative for Disposal of Patients' Stored Medicines for Environmental Sustainability (MyMediSAFE). The participants comprise of experts from the government agencies, pharmaceutical industries and academia (Day 1).

Improper disposal of unused or expired medicines can contaminate rivers, threaten wildlife, and contribute to the global rise of antimicrobial resistance. To tackle this silent but growing threat, the Ministry of Health and its partners introduced the MyMediSAFE initiative, a nationwide collaborative platform that educates and empowers Malaysians to return and dispose of their medicines safely. MyMediSAFE is an initiative introduced under the Thematic Working Group (TWG) 4 of the National Environmental Health Action Plan (NEHAP), a crossministry collaboration mainly involving the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES). Through TWG 4, this initiative connects public awareness, healthcare providers, and environmental policy into a coordinated action plan for a healthier and more sustainable Malaysia.

The MyMediSAFE initiative was launched in September 2024. Following this, the Pharmacy **Practice** and Development Division, Pharmaceutical Services Programme, organised a two-day Engagement Session for the Refinement of the Blueprint on Patient Medication Disposal Initiative for Environmental Sustainability. The event brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including academia, industry, professional bodies, government-linked and institutions to discuss and harmonise strategies for the implementation of safe medication disposal.





agenda featured presentations, The brainstorming sessions, and open discussions aimed to refine the MyMediSAFE blueprint towards actionable policies. One of the key align efforts objectives was to among ensuring stakeholders in that patient medication disposal practices are sustainable, and environmentally responsible.

## **UiTM-Alpro Pharmacy Collaboration**

Representing Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Dr. Hisyam Abdul Hamid shared an ongoing research project conducted in collaboration with Alpro Pharmacy, focusing on medicines disposed of by the public. The collaboration seeks to identify disposed medicines commonly through real-world data collection from Alpro community pharmacies, assess the potential economic value of returned medicines, quantify the extent of pharmaceutical wastage and highlight public behaviour in medicine disposal, strengthening the evidence base for future national strategies.

partnership highlights This UiTM's academic leadership and Alpro commitment Pharmacy's an industry partner in promoting safe disposal while contributing sustainability, cost-effectiveness, and public health protection. Dr. Hisyam also broadened the discussion by sharing international practices and innovations that could inform Malaysia's policies, includina Canada's Deprescribing Project, which minimises unnecessary prescriptions, the Netherlands' Redispensing Unused Oral Drug Anticancer (ROAD) study, an initiative to reuse oral anticancer medications under strict quality standards, and the Spain's integration of environmental risk criteria into sustainable prescribing practices. highlighted how These examples Malaysia could benefit from adapting global best practices to local contexts.

## **Insights from Other Stakeholders**

The workshop also featured significant contributions from other experts. Ms. Ng Yi the representing Malaysian (MPS) Pharmacists Society and the Pharmaceutical Association of Malaysia (PhAMA), shared updates on efforts to expand MyMediSAFE services in the Klang Valley. These included recruitment community pharmacies, preparation of operational guidelines, and the development of patient information leaflets, digital booklets, and awareness materials such as door stickers.

In addition, Dr. Noor Haza Fazlin from the National Water Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM) presented her research on the detection of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria in Malaysian rivers, underscoring the urgent need for upstream interventions such as safe medicine disposal to protect environmental and public health.





## **Moving Forward**

The two-day engagement session reaffirmed the importance of multistakeholder collaboration in developing a robust national framework for safe medication disposal. For UiTM and Alpro Pharmacy, their ongoing collaboration represents a pioneering academic–industry model in Malaysia, where evidence-based research is translated into actionable strategies that benefit both the environment and the community. As MyMediSAFE advances towards policy refinement and broader implementation, the UiTM-Alpro collaboration stands as a testament to the shared responsibility of academia and industry in shaping a healthier, more sustainable future.





Left: Knowledge sharing and brainstorming session. Dr. Hisyam Abdul Hamid from Faculty of Pharmacy, UiTM presented his current works in pharmaceutical waste management. Right: Brainstorming session between experts in the designated groups.



The engagement session on refining the blueprint for Initiative for Disposal of Patients' Stored Medicines for Environmental Sustainability (MyMediSAFE). The participants comprise of experts from the government agencies, pharmaceutical industries and academia (Day 2).



