

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

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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 cross-ministry 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, MOH, 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, and government-linked institutions to discuss and harmonise strategies for the implementation of safe medication disposal.





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

This partnership highlights UiTM's academic leadership and Alpro Pharmacy's commitment as an industry partner in promoting safe disposal while contributing to 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, including 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. These examples highlighted how 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 Ling, representing the Malaysian Pharmacists Society (MPS) and the Pharmaceutical Association of Malaysia (PhAMA), shared updates on efforts to expand MyMediSAFE services in the Klang Valley. These included recruitment of 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).



Seminar KELESTARIAN

Membina Masa Hadapan yang Lestari

Peranan Pengurusan Sisa Berjadual dan Kepentingan Orang Kompeten Berkelayakan Di Dalam Industri



RABU
20 OGOS 2025

MASA
10:00am - 12:00pm

BILIK GALERI ARAS 5
FPI, FAKULTI FARMASI, UiTM PUNCAK ALAM

YURAN PENYERTAAN
RM 5.00 : PELAJAR
RM 10.00 : STAF/PESERTA LUAR

JAM LATIHAN DAN E-CERT
DISEDIAKAN

MOD FIZIKAL / HIBRID
DISEDIAKAN

SILA IMBAS KOD QR UNTUK MENDAFTAR



Dr. Hisyam Abdul Hamid
Moderator



Ts. Zaidi Bin Mohamed @ Awang
Ketua, Pusat Bahan Berbahaya, Institut Alam Sekitar Malaysia (EIMAS)

