

The *Scan, Sahih, Selamat* Roadshow: Educating the Public on the Dangers of Unregistered Medications and Health Supplements



The *Scan, Sahih, Selamat* programme was successfully conducted on January 18, 2023 jointly organised by the Bahagian Perkhidmatan Farmasi, Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Selangor (BPF) and Faculty of Pharmacy, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). The roadshow was attended by YBrs. En. Dazafarullah bin Daud, Deputy Director General of Health (Pharmacy) Selangor, YBhg. Professor Dato' Dr. Abu Bakar Abdul Majeed, Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy UiTM, representative from Techno Secure Print Sdn. Bhd and the Pharmaceutical Services Program, Ministry of Health.

All medications and health supplements in Malaysia must be registered with the Drug Control Authority (DCA) before they can be marketed for the public, in order to ensure its safety, efficacy, and quality. Registered products will have the MAL registration number and hologram safety label attached to each packaging. Currently, the widely used hologram known as Farmatag™ is supplied by Techno Secure Print Sdn. Bhd. Additionally, the company has developed an application to increase public awareness on registration of products called FarmaChecker which can be downloaded from Google Play Store, Apple App Store or Huawei App Gallery.

This roadshow aimed to educate the public on the dangers of purchasing unregistered medications and health supplements that are available in the market. Pharmacists-in-training are the most appropriate ambassadors to educate their family members and relatives. Young adults nowadays are largely exposed to social media, which is currently the main platform for promoting medications and health supplements. Their interest in becoming founders or agents for these products are notably increasing too. It is important for them to understand the legal aspects of product registration to benefit both them and the public.

Final year pharmacists-in-training and faculty members attended this roadshow as participants, while 18 of the students volunteered to assist the organisers. This collaboration opens up opportunities for them to work with the enforcement pharmacists' officers and learn about different job scopes of a pharmacist. It is hoped that all participants gained new knowledge on the importance of product registration and will practically use the FarmaChecker application in the future. The Faculty of Pharmacy welcomes future collaborations with BPF for the next programme.



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