

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**THE PHYSICIAN'S ACCEPTANCE AND
PERCEPTION OF GENERIC MEDICATIONS IN
PRIVATE CLINICS, SHAH ALAM.**

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~ Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.~

William Arthur Ward

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TITLE PAGE	
APPROVAL SHEET	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iii
LIST OF TABLES	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	x
ABSTRACT	xi
CHAPTER ONE (INTRODUCTION)	1
1.1 General introduction	1
1.2 Proprietary and generic medications	5
1.3 Objective of the study	6
1.4 Background of the study	6
CHAPTER TWO (LITERATURE REVIEW)	7
2.1 Generic substitution against proprietary drug	7
2.2 Prescribing practice	8
2.3 Physicians' attitudes towards generic substitution	8
CHAPTER THREE (METHODOLOGY)	10
3.1 Study design	10
3.2 Sample selection	10
3.3 Instrumentation	11
3.4 Reliability of study	12
3.5 Study procedure	12

ABSTRACT

Aim: The aim of this investigation was to examine the acceptance, perception and current attitudes of physicians towards the use of generic medications.

Method: Fifty questionnaires were randomly distributed in district of Shah Alam among physicians in private clinics, with items to characterize their demographics and specific statements to determine their behavior on generics.

Result: Thirty-seven questionnaires were returned completed (74 % response). Most of the responding physicians are involved for many years in private clinics and may have wide experience with medication performances. Eighty-one point one per cent of the responding physicians were mostly prescribing generic medication willingly, indicating that the cheaper cost and the effectiveness of generic substitutes was a significant factor for this trend. They only prefer prescribe generics to patient with less serious disease condition. There were doubts about whether generic medication is bioequivalence to innovator drug. Additionally, 32.4% of the physicians were able to support generic medication plagued with clinical problems and mostly from neuromuscular and cardiovascular generic medications.

Conclusion: It is concluded that while the amendment to the Pharmacy Act encourages the substitution to generics, more emphasis should be placed on improving physician confidence in the bioequivalence and therapeutic equivalence of generic medications.

Key words physicians, generic medications, private clinics

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General introduction

Usage of conventional medications has enhanced quality of patients' life. It has been explained by Voruganti (2008) in Psychiatric Times that antipsychotic agent has improve quality of Schizophrenia patients' life although it comes along with side effects. The development of new generation medication which known as second generation antipsychotic or atypical antipsychotic agent with less side effects had solve those problems. The same fact said by Okereke (2002) in a study on Parkinson's disease patients who dosed with levodopa/carbidopa (Sinemet®) tablets every 6 hours, and observed a time-dependent improvement in overall motor function (Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2).

Although the uses of conventional medication is very important, the usage of brand name medication in health care practice has increase the cost of the treatment year to year respectively in all countries. Thus, an alternative approach of implementing generic drug prescribing practice was introduced in many countries in order to overcome such expenses and Malaysia is no exception. For example The French Ministry of Health decided in 1999 to push for generic drug prescribing practice to patient. Patient