

**“PILOT STUDY: PUBLIC AWARENESS TOWARDS  
METHADONE PROGRAMME”**



**DIPLOMA IN PHARMACY IN THE  
FACULTY OF PHARMACY,  
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA  
PULAU PINANG**

**PREPARED BY  
HUSNI MUSTAFA BIN MOHAMED HIR  
NURULAIN BINTI MAHADI**

**MARCH 2011**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, we would like to thank to all those who gave us the chances to conduct and complete this research as our final project in completing Diploma in Pharmacy course at UiTM Pulau Pinang. Next, a thousand thanks to the Department of Pharmacy Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah, Klang for giving us much information and helping to commence on this research.

We would like to express our gratitude to our supervisor, Miss Low Yen Lee. Her fresh ideas, experiences and guidance had help us a lot in doing this research. We also like to express our gratitude to our lecturers, Miss Chris, Mr. Izani, Madam Normiyah and other lecturers of Faculty of Pharmacy in Pulau Pinang and Puncak Alam for their advices and comments about our research.

Furthermore, our warmest thanks to all pharmacists and assistant pharmacist in Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah, Klang (HTAR) who have helped in the surveys at HTAR and at the methadone clinic.

Lastly, thank you so much to our beloved friends and family members who had given their full support and also to those who had involved directly or indirectly to finish this project.

# TABLE OF CONTENT

Acknowledgement	ii
Table of Contents	iii
List of Tables	v
List of Figures	vi
Abstract	vii
<b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CHAPTER 3 AIM AND OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>CHAPTER 4 MATERIALS AND METHODS</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1 Study Design	6
4.2 Study Subject	6
4.3 Data Collection	7
4.4 Data Analysis	7

## ABSTRACT

The level of public awareness towards methadone replacement programme have been explored. This study focuses on how much the public knowledge on methadone programme that is actually resulting many benefits. Our study was done at Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah, Klang which also own a methadone clinic itself. This study seems to be important to obtain a statistic from the survey done to the population. Our study subject was the visitor who come to the out patient pharmacy department of Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah, Klang on November. They were chosen randomly and then we gave a set of questionnaire for them to answer. The focus of this study is to relate their demographic factors which are ages, gender, race, health related working field or education, and the mass media they used the most with the level of methadone knowledge. From the 305 filled questionnaires we manage to collect, we go through all of it and key in the data into SPSS version 16.0 software to get the result in table form and also graph form. Expectedly, most of them (76%) are not aware of methadone programme and roughly they have the interest to know about it better. Insteadt, this result will be fully used soon on how to improve public awareness and knowledge about methadone replacement programme. Thus, the government might achieve their real objectives of conducting this programme.

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

Methadone clinic is a treatment facility for those who are dependent on heroin or similar types of addictive drugs, which are referred to as opioids. These clinics work to help addicted patients to manage their addiction by preventing opiate withdrawal, blocking the effects of illicit opiate used and decreasing opiate craving to have a better productive lifestyle.

In methadone clinic at HTAR, a drug called methadone in syrup form is distributed to the addicts for a long term treatment known as methadone replacement therapy. The drug is administered to them every day but they do not stay at the clinic instead they go to the clinic to receive their dose as prescribed by the doctors.

Some advantages of using methadone replacement programme are effective treatment for heroin addiction and effective in preventing HIV and AIDS. Furthermore, with the help of methadone, it will help to reduce criminal behavior which always mostly related to drug addict. And the most important advantage is methadone treatment is cost effective as it can be found in general hospital that providing cheaper service with the best quality of dispensing method followed the guideline given by Ministry of Health.

However, if methadone abused, it can produce the side effects such as drowsiness, nausea and vomiting, mood changes, and others. Some side effects are very severe such as fits and seizures. In overdose, it causes coma and death. Frankly speaking, without all these information, do we and the public know what is actually about methadone replacement programme? We believe that many people out there had never heard about methadone all this while.

So, we take this advantage to do a study to obtain the data on level of public awareness toward methadone replacement therapy in HTAR as we realize about the benefits to the people. Our subjects are the visitors or more specifically the patient who