

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**MEDICATION SHARING BEHAVIOUR AMONG
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT UiTM PUNCAK
ALAM CAMPUS**

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—In the Name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful

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ABSTRACT

Background: Medication sharing behaviour, defined as the act of “giving medication to someone else (“loaning”) or taking someone else’s medication (“borrowing”) has a great public health implication. **Aim:** The objective of this study were to investigate sharing medication behaviour among university students, to assess which classes of drugs that are more likely to be shared among students and to determine the socio-demographic factors associated with sharing medication behaviour among university students. **Method:** Three hundred and fifty questionnaires were distributed to the students at UiTM Selangor Puncak Alam campus. In the questionnaire, they were asked to indicate whether they had previously shared medication, the types of medication shared, and their perception benefit, consequences and reasons behind medication sharing. **Result:** More than half of the respondents (n=172, 52.1%) admitted share their medications with others and the results revealed that females were more actively participated (n=133, 77%) in sharing medication behaviour than the males (n=39, 23%). The most common medication that being shared among students were pain medication (n=113, 37%) followed by cough medication (n=69, 23%) and allergic medications (n=41, 14%). **Conclusion:** The most common type of medication shared by the students was pain medication. In addition, gender was the associated factor that determine the medication sharing behaviour, where females were more likely to involve in medication sharing behaviour. It can be concluded that sharing medication behaviour was practised among students at UiTM Selangor Puncak Alam campus.

Keywords: Sharing medication, Diversion, Practice, Undergraduate, Malaysia.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Medicine plays a major role in managing and maintaining our health status such as to treat long-term diseases like hypertension and diabetes. It is also used to treat health problems like infections. But sharing medications with other family members or friends is a dangerous misuse behaviour that can lead to serious consequences although they intend to help their family members in order to treat the pathological symptoms. Many people think the phrase “drug abuse” is only used for illegal drugs. However, unfortunately the prescriptions given to patients by their doctors can also be abused or misused. One of the example of the misuse prescriptions is when medications are being borrowed or shared with others.

Medication sharing behaviour, defined as the act of “giving medication to someone else (“loaning”) or taking someone else’s medication (“borrowing”) has a great public health implication. Self-medication with prescription medicines is a major problem in the developing countries and this make them are more likely to share medications. They keep a lot of medicines at home either for reuse or give them to someone else who needs and requests for them (Auta, Banwat, & Francis, 2011).