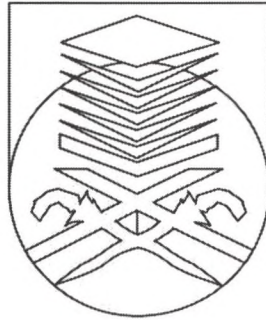


**“LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE OF SAFE
MEDICATION USE AMONG VISITORS AT HOSPITAL
SULTAN ABDUL HALIM: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY”**



**DIPLOMA IN PHARMACY OF
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TITLE PAGE	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
ABSTRACT	viii
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	
1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY	1
1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT	3
1.3 RATIONALE	4
CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW	5
CHAPTER 3: AIM AND OBJECTIVES	
3.1 AIM	8
3.2 OBJECTIVES	8
CHAPTER 4: METHODOLOGY	
4.1 STUDY DESIGN	9
4.2 SAMPLE/ POPULATION SIZE	9
4.3 DATA SAMPLING METHOD	9
4.4 RESULTS INSTRUMENTS	10
4.5 DATA ANALYSIS	10
CHAPTER 5: RESULTS	
5.1 DEMOGRAPHIC DATA OF THE RESPONDENTS	12
5.2 KNOWLEDGE OF SAFE MEDICATION USE AMONG VISITORS	14

ABSTRACT

Good knowledge and practice of medication use can improve one's health. The major objective of this study is to evaluate the current level of knowledge and practice of safe medication use among the visitors in Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim (HSAH). A cross-sectional survey was given out to visitors that were waiting in the hospital's lobby at HSAH and this study was conducted from October 2017 to January 2018, which is over 4 months. Visitors who were 18 years and above and understand Bahasa Melayu were included. The data was then analysed by using SPSS version 16. This study was focused to find whether gender and chronic disease are significantly associated with the level of knowledge and practice of safe medication use, to find whether there is an association between education level and practice of finishing their treatment regimens and to find the relationship between level of knowledge and practice of safe medication use.

This study showed that the visitors have a high level of knowledge (mean \pm SD = 11.24 ± 2.50) and good practice of safe medication use (mean \pm SD = 62.44 ± 6.79). However, there was less awareness in some aspects in knowledge of medication use and inappropriate practices of using medication safely, in terms of not telling their physician about other medication that they are taking and using the same medication based on symptoms experienced due to past illness. It also found out that only presence of chronic disease is significantly associated with the level of knowledge and practice of safe medication use, while gender does not. Other than that, it shows that there is an association between education level and practice of finishing their treatment regimens. There is also an association between the practice of sharing medication and the practice of using the same medication to cure similar symptoms

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” – WHO.

In 1978, during the International Conference on Primary Health Care, a declaration has been made and stated that the most important social goal worldwide is to attain the highest possible of health (WHO, 1978). Therefore, everyone in this world has the right to obtain great healthcare to improve their well-being (Kar SS et al., 2010). Today, the most common treatments used in our healthcare system are medications. They not only used to cure diseases and promote health but also to save lives and prevent diseases from spreading. However, they can also cause some serious problems when used incorrectly or inappropriately.

Cases of misuse medicines are increasing every day, in the form of multi-drug prescribing, self-medication and overuse of antibiotic and thus, irrational use of medicine is becoming a global phenomenon (Brahma et al., 2012). It is even worse in the third world countries and has been a serious concern among the healthcare providers (Kheir et al., 2011). It was reported that about 50% of patients fail to take their medications safely and correctly worldwide (WHO, 2012). A study showed that about 60% of medicines in public health facilities and 70% of them in the private ones were