

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**EXPLORING ADHERENCE TO
ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICATIONS IN
HOSPITAL KAJANG:
A QUALITATIVE STUDY**

WAN NUR ASYIKEN BINTI WAN AB. RAHMAN

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Pharmacy Practice

Faculty of Pharmacy

January 2017

CONFIRMATION BY PANEL OF EXAMINERS

I certify that a Panel of Examiners has met on 23rd January 2017 to conduct the final examination of Wan Nur Asyiken binti Wan Ab. Rahman on her Master of Pharmacy Practice dissertation entitled “**EXPLORING ADHERENCE TO ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICATIONS IN HOSPITAL KAJANG: A QUALITATIVE STUDY**” in accordance with Universiti Teknologi MARA Act 1976 (Akta 173). The Panel of Examiners recommended that the student be awarded the relevant degree. The panel of Examiners was as follows:

Dr. Shubashini Gnanasan

Senior Lecturer, ,
Faculty of Pharmacy
Universiti Teknologi MARA
(Supervisor)

Mathumalar Loganathan

Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Pharmacy
Universiti Teknologi MARA
(Internal Examiner I)

Jesmin Permala Das A/P Lohy Das

Lecturer
Faculty of Pharmacy
Universiti Teknologi MARA
(Internal Examiner II)

AISHAH ADAM, PhD

Professor
Dean
Faculty of Pharmacy
Universiti Teknologi Mara
Date: 23rd January 2017

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for Post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA and National Medical Research Registr(NMRR) regulating the conduct of my study and research.

Name of Student	: Wan Nur Asyiken binti Wan Ab. Rahman
Student ID	: 2015426616
Programme	: Master in Pharmacy Practice
Faculty	: Pharmacy
Dissertation Title	:Exploring Adherence to Antipsychotic Medications in Hospital Kajang: A Qualitative Study
Signature of Student	:
Date	: 13 th January 2017

ABSTRACT

Management of mental illness entails acute and long term treatment. This qualitative study explored the perspective of those patients prescribed with antipsychotic medication about their treatment and also to identify ways in which the healthcare system can facilitate the adherence. Thirty-five semi-structured, one to one interviews were conducted to explore the patient perception and experience on the disease management. Interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed verbatim and thematically analysed by the constant comparison method. The findings showed that patient's perception, knowledge, belief and experiences will influence their medication-taking behaviour. However, the patient's experience with the services and their socioeconomic background did not affect adherence. The healthcare professional believes education may help to increase adherence because the factors are modifiable. Healthcare services and the collaboration between the doctors, pharmacists and nurses were found helpful in ensuring the continuity of care which ultimately saves lives and unnecessary costs. The patients reported being more comfortable talking with the doctors and nurses about their medications compared with the pharmacists. The other healthcare professionals do encourage pharmacist to be part of them. Unfortunately, a pharmacy service in Hospital Kajang is not yet expanded in the psychiatric department due to lack of training and manpower. The findings were in line with Health Belief Model when the medication-taking behavior and adherence was influenced by patient's belief and perception. As a conclusion, the researcher found that the patients, caregivers and the healthcare professionals do not have a shared understanding of which factors are important in medication adherence behaviour and the strategies to improve them. The study identifies that providing relevant information to patients and their families, together with pharmacists participation in managing antipsychotic medication may help to facilitate adherence among patients in Hospital Kajang.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONFIRMATION BY PANEL OF EXAMINERS.....	ii
AUTHOR’S DECLARATION	iii
ABSTRACT.....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
LIST OF TABLES	xii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiii
CHAPTER 1.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY.....	1
1.1.1 Adherence Issues in Psychiatric Illnesses.....	1
1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT	2
1.3 RESEARCH GAPS.....	3
CHAPTER 2.....	4
LITERATURE REVIEW	4
2.1 EPIDEMIOLOGY AND RISK FACTORS	4
2.2 PSYCHIATRIC ILLNESSES IN MALAYSIA	4