



I have spent four years of my life committing to the acquisition of the knowledge and crafts to be a nobleman – a pharmacist, only to be taken aback by the harsh reality that, an illegal immigrant was giving counseling (I

eavesdropped the whole conversation) to a customer buying Misoprostol, illegally at a secluded spot in a night market.

The truth is, a “patient” did not go to see a healthcare professional for his or her health-related issue. That spot in that night market had everything, from antibiotics to steroids to oral contraceptive pills. A “pharmacy” with someone playing doctor. I am sure readers here are aware of the adverse effects of the unmonitored use of drugs and poisons, it puts the consumers at risk!

In this writing, I wish to implore fellow pharmacists (including you, the pharmacy students) to upskill ourselves, to make our profession a go-to personnel when people seek health-related bits of advice. Wherever we might be in the service as a pharmacist, we can and should serve our role to the best of our abilities.

As a pharmacist in the enforcement division, we are doing more inspections and prosecuting those irresponsible sellers desiring quick money at the cost of other people’s health. Meanwhile, our friends at the regulatory are engaged in pharmacosurveillance activities, monitoring drugs which are already on the market so that the products are always of quality, safe, and effective to use.

“PHARMACY UNITED IN ACTION FOR A HEALTHIER WORLD – WORLD PHARMACIST DAY, 2022”

Pharmacists at the policy unit are focused on improving access to medicine for everyone in Malaysia, while our logistics pharmacists are maintaining the supply chain of medicines to the patients. Pharmacists at the counter, seeing the client eye-to-eye, have a huge responsibility to dispense medicine in a way with much clarity and professionalism, that they want to listen more to a pharmacist.

Health is a wide area to cover, a pharmacist is seen not only by the sick but by healthy individuals. Maintaining health, quitting smoking, and general well-being, are areas in which primary care or community pharmacists may play a role. As you can see, pharmacists are everywhere, and anywhere we are, we have the same goal – to prioritize the well-being of the people around us. In this fraternity, we have created our own family.

As of now, we have more than 23,000 active registered pharmacists in Malaysia, but when moving in unison toward a common goal, we are one! Let us renew the oath that we took during the solemn white coat ceremony, and vow to be united in all our actions for a healthier world. For wherever we are, people will be seeking us for our expertise in this world full of drugs, poisons, and whatnot, as we are the next level of pharmacists – the guardian of the medicines.

Ahmad Najib Afandi, RX5
(Pharmacy Enforcement Branch, MOH)

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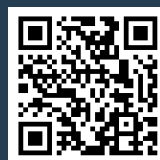
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