

## LETTER TO EDITOR

## OPEN ACCESS

## National Mass Gathering Pharmaceutical Care Program at MOH in Saudi Arabia

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Performing Hajj is considered the fifth pillar of Islam at a specific time each year 5-10 days. During this period million of pilgrims gathering in small location addition another thing called Omra with mostly little resemble performance of Hajj is one of excellent with some people.

WHO indicted mass gathering if there are more 1000 person in one place at the same time.<sup>[1]</sup> This is precisely in Hajj and Omra gathering. Each year the number of pilgrims each year ranging of 1,980,249-3,161,573 based on statistics years 2006-2014. Those pilgrims divide into two types of pilgrims who come from inside Saudi Arabia. It is account ranging of 600,718-1,408,641 pilgrims. The second category called outside pilgrims who come from outside Saudi Arabia; it is ranging 1,379,531-1,828,195 pilgrims.<sup>[2]</sup> Ministry of Health (MOH) provides excellent health care services to those pilgrims. In 2014; for instance, but not limited to these are, Seventeen permanent hospitals, eight seasonal (temporary) general hospitals, 44 permanent primary health center, 114 seasonal (temporary) primary health care centers. Those contain 4141 beds and 458 Intensive care beds. MOH arranged 24040 of Healthcare providers, 28.5 % repressed as allied health care personnel who are including the pharmacists.<sup>[2]</sup>

In 2013-2014, an account of 690,364 pilgrims visited hospitals, 3,502-3,866 pilgrims admitted to the hospitals during Hajj period. The common critical diseases at

Hajj time are heat exhaustion, and sun stroke, infectious diseases. The most mortality diseases were heart and blood vessels disease, cardio-respiratory failure, senility, and pneumonia asthma and bronchitis.<sup>[3]</sup> Despite the above services still several data missed related to pharmacy practice, for instance, pharmacy workforce during hajj, number of prescriptions, type of medication dispensed, medication safety data, Antimicrobial utilization, pharmacy workload, transition care program, and clinical pharmacy program during this period.

General administration of pharmaceutical care (GAPC) founded strategic planning of pharmaceutical care including Hajj period.<sup>[4]</sup> After revised the literature about mass gathering,<sup>[5-8]</sup> we established Mass Gathering of Pharmaceutical Care program.<sup>[8]</sup> This program headed by the author and organized by central committee of mass gathering of pharmaceutical care at GAPC.

This program contains the following but not limited the following

1. Mass Gathering Pharmaceutical Care Committees
2. Mass Gathering Pharmacy Practice
3. Mass Gathering Pharmacy Infection Control
4. Mass Gathering Drug Information



5. Mass Gathering Clinical Pharmacy

- ✓ Mass Gathering pain management program
- ✓ Mass Gathering Anticoagulation program
- ✓ Mass Gathering pharmacy diabetes care program
- ✓ Mass Gathering pharmacy neurology program
- ✓ Mass Gathering pharmacy home care program
- ✓ Mass Gathering drug information center program
- ✓ Mass Gathering nephrology pharmacy program
- ✓ Mass Gathering managed pharmacy care program
- ✓ Mass Gathering cardiology pharmacy program
- ✓ Mass Gathering pediatrics pharmacy program
- ✓ Mass Gathering pulmonary pharmacy program
- ✓ Mass Gathering oncology pharmacy program
- ✓ Mass Gathering medication therapy management program
- ✓ Mass Gathering critical care pharmacy program

6. Mass Gathering Emergency Pharmacy and Disaster Management

7. Mass Gathering Medication Safety

8. Mass Gathering Transition care

9. Mass Gathering Primary Care Centers

10. Mass Gathering Community Pharmacy

11. Mass Gathering Pharmacy Human Resources

12. Mass Gathering Pharmacy Corporate Communications

13. Mass Gathering Pharmacoeconomics

14. Mass Gathering Pharmacy Research

15. Mass Gathering Pharmacy Statistics and Surveillance

Mass Gathering pharmaceutical care is new, and first programs offer to pilgrims in Saudi Arabia. This program provides excellent pharmaceutical care services at Holy region in Makkah and Almadina through hospitals and primary care center, lead to prevent medication misadventure, drug therapy outcomes, improve patient quality of life, and avoid unnecessary cost. The entire world may generalize this program to any mass gathering section as the conference or Olympic Games, rock concerts, and World Youth Day over the entire world.

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