

Healthcare Provider's Perception and Attitude of Medications in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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Abstract

Objective: To explore Healthcare provider's perception of medications in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. **Methods:** It is a 4-months cross-sectional survey of healthcare professionals and knowledge of medicines. The survey consisted of two-part demographic information and second part forty-nine questions divided into four domains. It included domain one: Primary or essential information about healthcare providers medication, domain two: healthcare professionals information about the drug-related problem, domain three: healthcare professionals information about drug-related cost and domain four: Healthcare providers perception of medications. All type of healthcare professionals included in the study. Medline Plus health information and DailyMed-INH elements information from National Institute of Health United State of America were used. The survey was distributed through social media by using what's App to more than one thousand healthcare professionals overall Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The survey was made in an electronic format and it analyzed domain four: Healthcare provider's perception of medications through survey monkey system.

Results: The total responders were (188) Healthcare professionals. Of those 177 (95.16%) were Saudi and 9 (4.84%) were non-Saudi. The gender distribution 120 (63.83%) were females and 68 (36.17%) were males. The most of Healthcare professionals were pharmacists 93 (71.54%), followed by nurses 18 (13.85%) and physicians 15 (11.54%). The responders showed that 60 (32.26%) takes their medication without any prior information, 110 (59.14%) described drug to the person had the same disease and 130 (70.27%) use the medication without a prescription. Also, 65 (35.33%) of responders stopped their medication when they feel better and 116 (63.04%) of them completed entire medication course of therapy. The responders displayed that 119 (63.98%) believed Drug Information given by health care was not enough and 68 (36.56%) of responders thought that their medication knowledge was not enough. **Conclusion:** To better educate clinicians and pharmacists about medications, some professionals Should be resourced. These resources include information specific to classes of medications and medication types that have high specific potential, as well as suggestions on how to assess function and Counsel Participant's information and knowledge of Medication's Perception.

Key words: Healthcare professional, Perception, Attitudes, Medications, Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia.

INTRODUCTION

All the healthcare professionals have different knowledge of drug information and consent of their specialties. The physicians focus on medications prescribing and write the medications appropriately. The pharmacist's concern about how to prepare the medications and dispense the medications. While the nurse's consent of medications administration and transcription. With a wide variety of healthcare professional's knowledge, the perception and behavior also are different. Some physician is overprescribing the medications out of their specialties; the patient does not like to take medications because of adverse drug reaction and nurses administer the medications out of their specialties regardless of the updated medication knowledge recommendations. Healthcare providers play the essential role in empowering patients with the necessary skills and knowledge of perception

medication. The current study evaluates the knowledge about medication and understands the level of self-rated physician knowledge; aim to identify factors influencing perception and attitude And Formative education on prescribing, enhanced health care professionals' understanding about the safe and effective medication use with improved recognition and avoidance of prescribing errors. Achieving therapeutic effectiveness and optimal outcomes for patients receiving some drugs remains complex. It often a challenge for pharmacists and other healthcare professionals. That has related the influence of genomics, comorbidities, patient's age, additional prescription and over the counter medications, herbal products and dietary variability.^[1] The provision of healthcare does not stop at the availability of essential drugs but includes the provision of adequate information to patients for the proper use of those drugs to achieve a full health potential.^[2] The Inadequate knowledge of

prescribed medications among patients also known to associate with reduced compliance. There is some evidence that suggested improving knowledge of the disease condition also improves patient adherence to medication and improve quality of life.^[3-4] Few studies investigated the healthcare attitudes and medications perceptions.^[5-7] Most of the studies focused on particular specialty, not a common perception. It is hard to find local in Gulf or Middle East counties. The goal of this study was to explore the health practitioner attitudes and perceptions about medications in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

METHODS

It is a 4-months cross-sectional survey of healthcare professionals and knowledge of medicines. The survey consisted of two-part, demographic information and second part forty-nine questions divided into four domains.^[8] It included domain one: Primary or essential information about healthcare providers medication, domain two: healthcare professionals information about the drug-related problem, domain three: healthcare professionals information about drug-related cost and domain four: Healthcare providers perception of medications. All type of healthcare professionals included in the study.^[9-10] Medline Plus health information and DailyMed-INH elements information from National Institute of Health United State of America were used.^[11-12] The 5-point Likert response scale system was used. The questions were open and closed-ended. The survey was distributed through social media by using what's App to more than one thousand healthcare professionals overall Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. A message reminder was sent to healthcare professional after two weeks and additional message reminder was sent to healthcare professional after four weeks. The survey was made in an electronic format and it analyzed domain four: Healthcare provider's perception of medications through survey monkey system.

RESULTS

The total responders were (188) Healthcare professionals. Of those 177 (95.16%) were Saudi and 9 (4.84%) were non-Saudi. The gender distribution 120 (63.83%) were females and 68 (36.17%) were males. The majority of them in age (18-44) 86.7% and located at Asir region 89 (47.34%) and Riyadh region 46 (24.5%). The most of Healthcare professionals were pharmacists 93 (71.54%), followed by nurses 18 (13.85%) and physicians 15 (11.54%). The most responders had the Bachelor Degree 126 (67.02%) followed by Diploma 33 (17.55%) and Master degree 22 (11.7%) The most type of medications used was anti-hypertension medicines, anti-diabetic medicines, Skin medications and drugs for Respiratory Diseases. Also, the most number of medication taken either one 29 (15.85%) or two 17 (9.29%) as explored in Table 1. More than one-third of healthcare professionals sometimes had difficulties in reading drug name 69 (37.5%) and 20 (10.75%) cannot know the expiration date of Medications. The responders showed that 60 (32.26%) takes their medication without any prior information, 110 (59.14%) described drug to the person had the same disease and 130 (70.27%) use the medication without a prescription. Also, 65 (35.33%) of responders stopped their medication when they feel better and 116 (63.04%) of them they completed entire medication course of therapy. The responders displayed that 119 (63.98%) believed that Drug Information given by health care was not enough and 68 (36.56%) of responders, thought that their medication knowledge was not sufficient as explored in Table 2.

DISCUSSION

The Ministry of Health released the healthcare strategic plan with logo patient first.^[13] The pharmacy administration released several services according to the new pharmacy and healthcare strategic planning.^[14] The universal program was national medication safety program to cover all primary Health care centers.^[15] The primary objective of the program was to identify and prevent drug-related problems; through healthcare provider's

Table 1: Demographic responder qualifications information.

Characteristics	Response N	Response %
Sex		
Female	120	63.83%
Male	68	36.17%
Answered question	188	100%
Skipped question	0	
Nationality		
Saudi	177	95.16%
Non-Saudi	9	4.84%
Answered question	186	100%
Skipped question	2	
Age		
<18	5	2.66%
18 - 29	112	59.57%
30 - 44	51	27.13%
45 - 59	19	10.11%
60+	1	0.53%
Answered question	188	100%
Skipped question	0	
Healthcare professional		
Doctor	15	11.54%
Dentist	4	3.08%
Pharmacist	93	71.54%
Nurse	18	13.85%
Others	33	25.38%
Answered question	130	
Skipped question	58	
Total Experiences		
Doctorate degree	7	3.72%
Master degree	22	11.70%
Bachelor Degree	126	67.02%
Diploma	33	17.55%
High school	7	3.72%
Intermediate School	0	0.00%
Primary School	0	0.00%
Not educated	0	0.00%
Answered question	188	100%
Skipped question	0	
The current medications		
Diabetic Medication	26	13.83%
Antihypertensive Medication	28	14.89%
Cardiac Medication	7	3.72%
Asthma Medication	16	8.51%
Derma Medication	18	9.57%
Anti-Rheumatic	13	6.91%
Do not take anything now	125	66.49%
Others	27	14.36%
Answered question	188	100%
Skipped question	0	
Number of current medication taken		
Nothing	121	66.12%
1	29	15.85%
2	17	9.29%
3	7	3.83%
4	2	1.09%
5	2	1.09%
6	2	1.09%
7	3	1.64%
8	0	0.00%
9	0	0.00%
10	0	0.00%
more than 10	0	0.00%
Answered question	183	
Skipped question	5	

Table 2: The healthcare provider's perception about medications.									
No	Perceptions Inquiries	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	answered question	skipped question
		Always		Sometimes		Never			
1	Are you having difficulty reading the name of your medicine	10	5.43%	69	37.50%	105	57.07%	184	4
2	Do you avoid going to the hospital expected symptoms would subside?	46	24.73%	123	66.13%	17	9.14%	186	2
		Yes		No		Others			
3	Can you read the expiration date printed on the medication	159	85.48%	20	10.75%	7	3.76%	186	2
4	Do you believe that the drug information given by healthcare professionals enough	58	31.18%	119	63.98%	9	4.84%	186	2
5	Do you feel that your knowledge of prescribed medications for you is good enough?	110	59.14%	68	36.56%	8	4.30%	186	2
6	Have you ever tacked a drug you do not have any prior information about	60	32.26%	122	65.59%	4	2.15%	186	2
7	Is it possible to describe another drug to a person suffering from the same illness?	85	45.70%	97	52.15%	4	2.15%	186	2
8	Is it possible to use a drug without a prescription?	130	70.27%	51	27.57%	4	2.16%	185	3
		Take the entire Course		Stop the medications when you feel better		Others			
9	Do you take the entire Course or you just stop the medication when you feel better	116	63.04%	65	35.33%	3	1.63%	184	4

perception towards medications. Several essential medications courses delivered to the physicians, pharmacists and nurses in the past years. Another service provided to all healthcare professionals to correct the attitudes and perception of medications was the network of drug information centers services. They are receiving inquiries calls from them over 24/7 from all healthcare professionals.^[16] The investigator wishes to explore the perception of healthcare professionals toward medications. The finding showed that not one third of them had difficulty in reading drug name and only a few had problems with an expiry date of the medication, maybe because of different specialty or not familiar with drug manufacturers process. The finding showed that is healthcare professionals one-third of them usage medications without prior information and two third of them prescribed the medications with same conditions. These findings are unexpected because they should know the medications before usage. However, it is expected to prescribe the medications or use the medications without prescription especially with over the counter medications. One-third of healthcare professionals noncompliance with their medications and that is not expected sure had good medications knowledge. It may be they are buzzy to take the medication regularly and on time. Two third of healthcare providers through drug information given to healthcare professionals is not adequate and be third of them does not have sufficiently of drug information knowledge. That is related to a week healthcare education from the pharmacy or the pharmaceutical services do contain drug information services at the organization. Also, the pharmacology education at healthcare professional's school is not adequate for them. Also, the inadequate knowledge of medication mostly attributed to the lack of communication from the medical practitioners due to the high patient load. The pharmacists in the pharmacy would help improve patients' knowledge of medication use. However, sometimes the lack of drugs in the hospital forces patients to go out of the hospital with half-filled prescriptions or no drugs This poses a question on

whether healthcare is equitable from the standpoint of proper information about medication.^[2] The Healthcare professional knowledge about prescribed medication is an essential factor in determining their compliance a patient and outcome of a disease.^[3] The results show that healthcare practitioners are not fully aware of drugs prescriptions and need to know more and learn about prescriptions and give them great importance because the attitude toward medication In Saudi Arabia Plays an important role and counseling sessions were able to produce statistically significant results.^[17] Most of the results could not compare with other studies because it seems that this the first study which discussed the healthcare perception of medications with particular information.

CONCLUSION

In a resource-poor setting with Limited Proficiency, lower level of education and misperception of illness severity maybe resulted in reduced knowledge on prescribed medications. Furthermore, the being educated by a healthcare professional significantly improved knowledge. To better educate clinicians and pharmacists about medications, some professionals Should be resourced. These resources include information specific to classes of medications and medication types that have high specific potential, as well as suggestions on how to assess function and Counsel Participant's information and knowledge of Medication's Perception.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

ABBREVIATIONS

KSA: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; MOH: Ministry of Health; CBAHI: Saudi Center for Accreditation of Healthcare Institutions.

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