

Community Pharmacy Policy and Procedures: Occupational Safety and Health System

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: This research aims to shed light on the significant new initiative of occupational safety and health policy in community pharmacy practice in Saudi Arabia, a topic of utmost importance in retail pharmacy. This research is crucial as it provides valuable insights into a field that directly impacts the safety and well-being of pharmacy professionals and patients alike. **Methods:** This was a comprehensive narrative review of pharmacy Occupational Safety and Health. We meticulously searched databases, including PubMed, Medline and Google Scholar, for specific Occupational Safety and Health policies and procedures in pharmacy practice. The search period spanned from the 1960s until October 2021 and the term was in English, including narrative review, systemic review, Meta-analysis and guidelines. All community pharmacy services were included in the search term, along with local and international guidelines of general occupational safety and health in hospital practice. The Pharmacy Occupational Safety and Health Committee, a crucial body formulated with various expert members, played a significant role in drafting and reviewing the policy guidelines, ensuring a comprehensive and well-informed approach. The guidelines of the policy draft by one member and the second member were reviewed and corrected. The occupational safety and health specialist did the third revision. The topic emphasizes the community Pharmacy Occupational Safety and Health policy and procedures and our thorough research process ensures the credibility of our findings. **Results:** The competency of the Pharmacy Occupational Safety and Health policy consisted of various items. The pharmacy assigns the responsibility of pharmacy occupational safety and health, sets up the strategic and annual plan for occupational safety and health, assesses occupational safety for community pharmacy and conducts the education and training courses for pharmacy occupational safety and health. Set up the procedures and guidelines for environmental, occupational safety, fire safety, pharmacy infection control and pharmacy disaster management. Besides quality management implementation for pharmacy occupational safety and healthcare and related key performance indicators. **Conclusion:** The community pharmacy occupational safety and health policy is a new initiative project and a practical and crucial aspect of community practice performances. Occupational Safety and Health policies and procedures are not just theoretical concepts but critical to any healthcare organization's safety environment. They serve as a preventive measure against environmental-related accidents and problems and help avoid the economic burden of community pharmacy practice. Therefore, the Occupational Safety and Health policy and procedures are not just regulations but practical guidelines for healthcare institutions, including community pharmacies, during the transformation strategies of New Vision 2030 in Saudi Arabia. These policies and procedures are designed with practicality in mind, ensuring their applicability and effectiveness in real-world scenarios.

Keywords: Occupational Safety and Health, Policy, Pharmacy, Competency, Saudi Arabia.

INTRODUCTION

The community pharmacy provides various products and services.^[1,2] After purchasing from the vendor, those products are transported to be stocked at pharmacy warehouses. The transportation process needs specific instructions and regulations to prevent fire accidents.^[3,4] Failure to implement such measures can lead to potential fire hazards and endanger the safety of the products and employees.^[3,5-7] There are additional requirements for stocking goods, devices and supplies during stocking at warehouse locations.^[3,5,8] Those regulations by government officials section that is including the Ministry of Building,^[9] the Ministry of

Human Resources and Social Development,^[10] the Ministry of Interior (Civil of Defense),^[11-14] General Organization for Social Insurance.^[15,16] That is to prevent occupational injuries to the products and the employees. The chemical products used in the clinical compounding services need unique materials and safety data sheets.^[17,18] All community pharmacy staff need protective equipment with special instructions to prevent infection-related communication.^[19] There are few publications on occupational health and safety in the pharmacy at Community Pharmacy.^[3-5,19-23] All those publications should be addressed and implemented as policies and procedures at all community pharmacy

offices and service locations. The authors are unfamiliar with the review that discusses occupational health and safety in special community pharmacies. The current review aims to declare the community pharmacy occupational health and safety.

METHODS

It was a narrative review of new sights on occupational safety and health policy and procedures at community pharmacy. Litterateur searched databases about specific community pharmacy policy and procedures topics, including PubMed, Medline and Google Scholar. The search period is from the 1960s until September 2024. The term is in English and They included Full-text Full text, Case Reports, Classical Articles, Clinical Conferences, Clinical Studies, Clinical Trials, Clinical Trials, Phase I, Clinical Trials, Phase II, Clinical Trials, Phase III, Clinical Trials, Phase IV, Clinical Trial, Veterinary, Government Publication, Guideline, Meta-Analysis, Observational Study, Randomized Controlled Trial, Review, Systematic Review, Humans, English. All community Community pharmacy services are included in a search term. The community pharmacy services included a point of sale at a community pharmacy, human resources, education and training, a compounding center, a community pharmacy store and clinical community pharmacy services. Besides, the national and international guidelines of general community pharmacy practice policy and procedures in a community setting.^[24-31] These included the American Pharmaceutical Association, the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP),^[24-26] the Ministry of Building,^[9] the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development,^[10] the Ministry of Inferior (Civil of Defense),^[11-14] General Organization for Social Insurance,^[15,16] The Ministry of Labor (USA), National Fire Protection Association (USA),^[32-37] Occupational Safety and Health Administration (USA),^[38-41] The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (USA) and The Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (U.K.). In addition, some local and international quality management standards from CBAHI and the Joint Commission are used, emphasizing Facilities Management Services (FMS)^[42,43] and other literature.^[3-5,8,21-23,27-31,44-50] The Community Pharmacy Policy and Procedures committee was formulated and consisted of various expert members. That includes expert community pharmacists and clinical pharmacist specialists. The policy guidelines were drafted by one member, reviewed and corrected by the second member and the third revision by the occupational

safety pharmacist specialist. The occupational safety and health at community Community pharmacy consisted of various topics, including environmental, occupational safety, fire safety, pharmacy infection control and pharmacy disaster management.

Search: (community pharmacy[Title/Abstract]) AND (occupational health[Title/Abstract]) Filters: Full text, Case Reports, Classical Article, Clinical Conference, Clinical Study, Clinical Trial, Clinical Trial, Phase I, Clinical Trial, Phase II, Clinical Trial, Phase III, Clinical Trial, Phase IV, Clinical Trial, Veterinary, Government Publication, Guideline, Meta-Analysis, Observational Study, Randomized Controlled Trial, Review, Systematic Review, Humans, English.

("Community pharmacy"[Title/Abstract] AND "occupational health"[Title/Abstract]) AND ((casereports[Filter] OR classicalarticle[Filter] OR clinicalconference[Filter] OR clinicalstudy[Filter] OR clinicaltrial[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphasei[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphaseii[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphaseiii[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphaseiv[Filter] OR veterinaryclinicaltrial[Filter] OR governmentpublication[Filter] OR guideline[Filter] OR meta-analysis[Filter] OR observationalstudy[Filter] OR randomizedcontrolledtrial[Filter] OR review[Filter] OR systematicreview[Filter]) AND (ff[Filter]) AND (humans[Filter]) AND (english[Filter])).

Search: (community pharmacy[MeSH Terms]) AND (occupational health[MeSH Terms]) Filters: Full text, Case Reports, Classical Article, Clinical Conference, Clinical Study, Clinical Trial, Clinical Trial, Phase I, Clinical Trial, Phase II, Clinical Trial, Phase III, Clinical Trial, Phase IV, Clinical Trial, Veterinary, Government Publication, Guideline, Meta-Analysis, Observational Study, Randomized Controlled Trial, Review, Systematic Review, Humans, English.

("Pharmacies"[MeSH Terms] AND "occupational health"[MeSH Terms]) AND ((casereports[Filter] OR classicalarticle[Filter] OR clinicalconference[Filter] OR clinicalstudy[Filter] OR clinicaltrial[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphasei[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphaseii[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphaseiii[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphaseiv[Filter] OR veterinaryclinicaltrial[Filter] OR governmentpublication[Filter] OR guideline[Filter] OR meta-analysis[Filter] OR observationalstudy[Filter] OR randomizedcontrolledtrial[Filter] OR review[Filter] OR systematicreview[Filter]) AND (ff[Filter]) AND (humans[Filter]) AND (english[Filter])).

Translations

community pharmacy[MeSH Terms]: "pharmacies"[MeSH Terms].

occupational health[MeSH Terms]: "occupational health"[MeSH Terms].

Search: (community pharmacy[Text Word]) AND (occupational health[Text Word]) Filters: Full text, Case Reports, Classical Article, Clinical Conference, Clinical Study, Clinical Trial, Clinical Trial, Phase I, Clinical Trial, Phase II, Clinical Trial, Phase III, Clinical Trial, Phase IV, Clinical Trial, Veterinary, Government Publication, Guideline, Meta-Analysis, Observational Study, Randomized Controlled Trial, Review, Systematic Review, Humans, English.

("Community pharmacy"[Text Word] AND "occupational health"[Text Word]) AND ((casereports[Filter] OR classicalarticle[Filter] OR clinicalconference[Filter] OR clinicalstudy[Filter] OR clinicaltrial[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphasei[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphaseii[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphaseiii[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphaseiv[Filter] OR veterinaryclinicaltrial[Filter] OR governmentpublication[Filter] OR guideline[Filter] OR meta-analysis[Filter] OR observationalstudy[Filter] OR randomizedcontrolledtrial[Filter] OR review[Filter] OR systematicreview[Filter]) AND (ff[Filter]) AND (humans[Filter]) AND (english[Filter])).

Search: (retail pharmacy[Title/Abstract]) AND (occupational health[Title/Abstract]) Filters: Full text, Case Reports, Classical Article, Clinical Conference, Clinical Study, Clinical Trial, Clinical Trial, Phase I, Clinical Trial, Phase II, Clinical Trial, Phase III, Clinical Trial, Phase IV, Clinical Trial, Veterinary, Government Publication, Guideline, Meta-Analysis, Observational Study, Randomized Controlled Trial, Review, Systematic Review, Humans, English.

("Retail pharmacy"[Title/Abstract] AND "occupational health"[Title/Abstract]) AND ((casereports[Filter] OR classicalarticle[Filter] OR clinicalconference[Filter] OR clinicalstudy[Filter] OR clinicaltrial[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphasei[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphaseii[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphaseiii[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphaseiv[Filter] OR veterinaryclinicaltrial[Filter] OR governmentpublication[Filter] OR guideline[Filter] OR meta-analysis[Filter] OR observationalstudy[Filter] OR randomizedcontrolledtrial[Filter] OR review[Filter] OR systematicreview[Filter]) AND (ff[Filter]) AND (humans[Filter]) AND (english[Filter])).

Search: (retail pharmacy[MeSH Terms]) AND (occupational health[MeSH Terms]) Filters: Full text, Case Reports, Classical Article, Clinical Conference, Clinical Study, Clinical Trial, Clinical Trial, Phase I, Clinical Trial, Phase II, Clinical Trial, Phase III, Clinical Trial, Phase IV, Clinical Trial, Veterinary, Government Publication, Guideline, Meta-Analysis, Observational Study, Randomized Controlled Trial, Review, Systematic Review, Humans, English.

((“Retail”[All Fields] OR “retailed”[All Fields] OR “retailer”[All Fields] OR “retailers”[All Fields] OR “retailing”[All Fields] OR “retails”[All Fields]) AND (“pharmacy”[MeSH Terms] OR “pharmacies”[MeSH Terms]) AND “occupational health”[MeSH Terms]) AND ((casereports[Filter] OR classicalarticle[Filter] OR clinicalconference[Filter] OR clinicalstudy[Filter] OR clinicaltrial[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphasei[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphaseii[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphaseiii[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphaseiv[Filter] OR veterinaryclinicaltrial[Filter] OR governmentpublication[Filter] OR guideline[Filter] OR meta-analysis[Filter] OR observationalstudy[Filter] OR randomizedcontrolledtrial[Filter] OR review[Filter] OR systematicreview[Filter]) AND (fft[Filter]) AND (humans[Filter]) AND (english[Filter])).

Translations

Retail: “retail”[All Fields] OR “retailed”[All Fields] OR “retailer”[All Fields] OR “retailers”[All Fields] OR “retailing”[All Fields] OR “retails”[All Fields].

Pharmacy[MeSH Terms]: “pharmacy”[MeSH Terms] OR “pharmacies”[MeSH Terms].

occupational health[MeSH Terms]: “occupational health”[MeSH Terms].

Search: (retail pharmacy[Text Word]) AND (occupational health[Text Word]) Filters: Full text, Case Reports, Classical Article, Clinical Conference, Clinical Study, Clinical Trial, Clinical Trial, Phase I, Clinical Trial, Phase II, Clinical Trial, Phase III, Clinical Trial, Phase IV, Clinical Trial, Veterinary, Government Publication, Guideline, Meta-Analysis, Observational Study, Randomized Controlled Trial, Review, Systematic Review, Humans, English.

((“retail pharmacy”[Text Word] AND “occupational health”[Text Word]) AND ((casereports[Filter] OR classicalarticle[Filter] OR clinicalconference[Filter] OR clinicalstudy[Filter] OR clinicaltrial[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphasei[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphaseii[Filter] OR

clinicaltrialphaseiii[Filter] OR clinicaltrialphaseiv[Filter] OR veterinaryclinicaltrial[Filter] OR governmentpublication[Filter] OR guideline[Filter] OR meta-analysis[Filter] OR observationalstudy[Filter] OR randomizedcontrolledtrial[Filter] OR review[Filter] OR systematicreview[Filter]) AND (fft[Filter]) AND (humans[Filter]) AND (english[Filter])).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The pharmacist suggested following the policy and procedures for occupational safety and health for community pharmacy.

- The pharmacy assigns a pharmacist or pharmacy technician for pharmacy occupational safety and health.
- The community pharmacy should establish a strategic plan for occupational safety and health and a periodically revised annual plan.
- The occupational safety pharmacist should assess occupational safety for community pharmacies based on the guidelines and publications.
- The score level should be determined based on the assessment, a plan should be set accordingly and reassessments should be made annually.
- According to published policies and procedures, all pharmacy staff should take education and training courses in pharmacy occupational safety and health.
- The pharmacy should distribute pharmacist policies and procedures for occupational safety to all pharmacy employees and provide special training based on published guidelines.
- The pharmacist’s occupational safety and health, following the specific published procedures and guidelines for environmental, occupational, fire safety, pharmacy infection control, pharmacy disaster management and competency.
- The occupational safety pharmacist should set a quality management plan for pharmacy occupational safety and healthcare and related key performance indicators according to published guidelines and procedures.

CONCLUSION

Community pharmacies are susceptible to various accidents or fires. Staff may be exposed to hazards while handling and storing equipment and materials. Chemicals and medications also pose a fire or explosion risk, necessitating the availability of material safety data sheets to prevent further damage. Therefore, an occupational health and safety

system is crucial for pharmacy staff and patients. However, more policies and procedures for occupational health and safety in the pharmacy are needed. This review emphasizes the need for occupational health and safety systems in community pharmacy services.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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CONSENT FOR PUBLICATIONS

Informed consent was obtained from all the participants.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

This research was exempted from research and ethical committee or an institutional review board (IRB) approval.

<https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-andpolicy/decision-charts-2018/index.html>

ABBREVIATIONS

MOH: Ministry of Health; **KSA:** Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; **SFDA:** Saudi Food and Drug; **EMA:** European Medicine Agency; **WHO:** Organization; **ASHP:** American Society of Healyh-Pharmacists; **ISMP:** Institution Safe Medication Practice; **CBAHI:** Saudi Central Board for Accreditation of Healthcare Institutions; **FMS:** Facility and Management Safety; **NFA:** National Fire Protection Association; **OSHA:** Occupational Safety and Health Administration; **NIOSH:** He National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; **IOSH:** He Institution of Occupational Safety and Health.

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