

Community Pharmacy Policy and Procedures: Medical and Medication Devices or Disposable

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: To explore the Medical and Medication Devices policy in Community pharmacy practice as a new initiative in Saudi Arabia. **Methods:** It was a narrative review of community pharmacy policy and procedures for the medical and medication devices system. Litterateur searched databases, including PubMed, Medline and Google Scholar, about specific Medical and Medication Devices policies and procedures in Community pharmacy practice. The search period is from the 1960s until October 2021. The term is in English and includes narrative review, systemic review, Meta-analysis and guidelines. All hospital or community Community pharmacy services are included in a search term. Besides, the national and international guidelines for general medical and medication devices in hospital practice are also included. The Community Pharmacy Medical and Medication Devices Committee formulated and consisted of various expert members. That includes clinical pharmacists, drug information pharmacists and clinical Medical and Medication Devices specialists. The guidelines of the policy draft by one member and the second member were reviewed and corrected. The medical and medication devices specialist did the 3rd revision. The topic emphasizes Community pharmacy Medical and Medication Devices policy and procedures. **Results:** The Community Pharmacy's Medical and Medication Devices policy comprised various items. That has included Medical and Medication Devices and Disposable committee, DM-related devices and disposable, hypertension devices and disposable, Hypertension disease devices and disposable, Infectious disease devices and disposable, orthopedics devices and disposable, geriatrics devices and disposable, Geriatrics devices and disposable, Neonatal and Pediatrics related devices and disposable, Cosmetics related devices and disposable, Adverse drug reaction reporting system related devices and disposable and Drug quality reporting system related devices and disposable. **Conclusion:** The Community Pharmacy Medical and Medication Devices and Disposable policy is a new and updated initiative that is part of the community pharmaceutical care services. The policy supports the diagnosis, management and monitoring of therapeutic plans. It also supports patient care and improves patient quality of life. Therefore, the Medical and Medication Devices or disposable policy is highly recommended for the Community pharmacy practice in Saudi Arabia.

Keywords: Medical, Medication, Devices, Disposable, Policy, Community pharmacy, Saudi Arabia.

INTRODUCTION

Various non-parenteral medication dosages, such as tablets, capsules, suppositories, syrups and suspensions, are available for dispensing at the point of sale at community pharmacies.^[1] Some medications, such as inhalers, need devices during administration. Other devices used to support disease monitoring or management include diabetes devices like glucose monitors and foot care devices. Hypertension devices include blood pressure monitors, orthopedic devices such as wheelchairs and surgical devices such as bandages.^[2,3] Asthma devices, such as pediatric devices for inhalation.^[4,5] Community pharmacies might sell infectious disease devices such as masks and gloves.^[6] burn devices such as cream bandages and disposable materials such as oral syringes.^[7,8] The pharmacist is essential in dispensing devices with specific patient education requirements. Various studies show the role of pharmacists in patient counseling and preventing device misuse.^[5,9-13] The author is

unfamiliar with any literature about community pharmacy policy and related devices or disposal materials. The current review aims to explore community pharmacy policy and procedures emphasizing devices and disposal products.

METHODS

It was a narrative review of new views on patient, medical and medication devices or disposable policies and procedures at a community pharmacy. Litterateur searched databases, including PubMed, Medline and Google Scholar, about specific Community pharmacy policy and procedures topics. The search period is from the 1960s until October 2024. The term is in English and includes narrative review, systemic review, Meta-analysis and guidelines. The policy dates were limited to the last ten years only. 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 the community setting.^[14-21] That included the American Pharmaceutical Association, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)^[14-16] and other literature.^[3-8,10,11,17-22] The Community Pharmacy Policy and Procedures committee was formulated and consisted of various expert members. That includes clinical community pharmacists, expert community pharmacists and Medical and Medication Devices pharmacist specialists. The policy guidelines were drafted by one member, reviewed and corrected by the second member and the third revision by the Medical and Medication Devices pharmacist specialist. The Medical and Medication Devices at the community pharmacy consisted of various topics, including Medical and Medication Devices and Disposable committee, DM-related devices and disposable, Athma-related devices and disposable, Sports Medicine related devices and disposable, Orthopedics related devices and disposable, Geriatrics related devices and disposable Neonatal and Pediatrics related devices and disposable, Cosmetics related devices and disposable, Adverse drug reaction reporting system related devices and disposable and Drug quality reporting system related devices and disposable.

Search: (community pharmacy[Title/Abstract]) AND (devices[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

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("pharmacies"[MeSH Terms] AND "equipment and supplies"[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

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

Devices [MeSH Terms]: "equipment and supplies"[MeSH Terms].

Search: (community pharmacy[Text Word]) AND (devices[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

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Warnings

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Search: (community pharmacist[Title/Abstract]) AND (devices[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.

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Translations

community pharmacist[MeSH Terms]: "pharmacists"[MeSH Terms].

Devices [MeSH Terms]: "equipment and supplies"[MeSH Terms].

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("community pharmacist"[Text Word] AND "devices"[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: (community pharmacist[Title/Abstract]) AND (disposable[Title/Abstract]) Filters: Full text, Case Reports, Classical

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Translations

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

Warnings

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Term not found: disposable.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The pharmacist suggested following the policy and procedures for community pharmacy's medical and medication devices or disposals.

- The community pharmacy assigns a pharmacist or pharmacy technician to the community pharmacy's medical and medication devices or disposal responsibility.
- The community pharmacy should establish a strategic plan for medical and medication devices or disposables, as well as an annual plan and revise it periodically.
- The Medical and Medication Device or Disposable pharmacist should assess Medical and Medication Devices for the community Pharmacy based on the guidelines and publication.
- 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 community pharmacy staff should take education and training courses in community pharmacy medical and medication devices or disposables.
- The community pharmacy should distribute pharmacist policies and procedures for community pharmacy medical and medication devices to all community pharmacy employees, with special training based on published guidelines.
- The pharmacist Medical and Medication Devices following the specific published procedures and guidelines of the Medical and Medication Devices and Disposable committee, DM-related devices and disposable, Athma-related devices and disposable, Hypertension devices and disposable, Infectious Diseases related devices and disposable, Sports Medicine devices and disposable, Orthopedics related devices and disposable, Geriatrics related devices and disposable, Neonatal and Pediatrics related devices and disposable, Cosmetics related devices and disposable, Adverse drug reaction reporting system related devices and disposable and Drug quality reporting system related devices and disposable.
- According to published guidelines and procedures, the pharmacists of medical and medication devices should set a quality management plan for community pharmacies, medical and medication devices, or disposable and related key performance indicators.

CONCLUSION

Community pharmacies play a crucial role in providing a variety of devices related to

diabetic care, such as laboratory test diagnostic and monitoring equipment, as well as insulin devices. They also offer asthma devices for administering inhalers to pediatric and adult patients, with plans to expand to devices for senior and disabled patients in the future. Pharmacists at community pharmacies carefully select the appropriate devices for each disease and provide comprehensive patient education. However, the lack of literature on medical and disposable devices emphasizing service policies and procedures is a significant gap. Therefore, it is not just recommended, but urgent, that policies and procedures for medical and disposable devices be established to ensure the best patient care for all types of patients.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

FUNDING

None.

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-and-policy/decision-charts-2018/index.html>

ABBREVIATIONS

MOH: Ministry of Health; **KSA:** Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; **SFDA:** Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA); **EMEA:** European Medicine Agency; **WHO:** World Health Organization; **ASHP:** American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

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