

11TH NATIONAL PHARMACY R&D CONFERENCE 2020

7 – 9 JULY 2020

“Pharmacy Research Towards Optimization of Therapy and Service Delivery”

GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The 11th National Pharmacy R&D Conference 2020 welcomes abstracts for oral / poster presentations in the area of pharmacy research. Pharmacists, healthcare professionals, students and academicians from the government and private sectors involved in research activities are welcome to submit their abstracts.

The content of the submitted abstracts should comply with the theme of the conference. The focus will be on two main areas stated below:

Research Area	Explanation
Optimization of therapy	Researches that are conducted to optimize drug therapy (pharmacotherapy) outcomes in patients. Any research aimed to improve the outcome of therapy in patients will be included in this category. The findings of research in this area should lead to the optimization of patients' outcome or therapy, or change of practice or use of current resources. It is not limited to pharmacotherapy interventional studies, but can also include medication review by MOH or community pharmacists, antimicrobial stewardship, etc. Studies on the impact of electronic applications and information and communication technology (ICT) in therapeutic optimization are also welcome.
Optimization of pharmacy service delivery	All researches that are conducted to improve the current pharmacy service delivery are included in this category. It shall cover all but not limited to studies about extended pharmacy services, home medication review, value added services (VAS), etc. Researches aimed to study pharmacy services being provided such as research on the non-conventional pharmacy services, pharmacy enforcement services and regulatory services will also be applied. The research findings on the role of pharmacist, capacity building and service efficiency are also addressed in this area. Studies on the impact of ICT in the optimization of pharmacy services are also recommended.

The abstract should be based on original research and has **NOT** been published in any other journal, conference proceedings or publication.

Abstract that has been presented **AND** has won any prize or award in any national or international conference is **NOT ALLOWED**. The Scientific Committee, however, may consider accepting abstracts that have been presented at the state or facility level.

All abstracts accepted in this conference will be published as a supplementary issue in the MOH Pharmacy Research Reports.

All abstracts must be typed in font size 10, font Arial, in sentence case and single-spacing (do not use all CAPITAL LETTERS). The word count (excluding title, author details and key words) **must not exceed 300 words**.

The abstracts must be structured in the following format: **Introduction, Objective(s), Methods, Results and Conclusion**. List no more than five keywords related to your research. Tables, graphs, and charts are **NOT permitted**.

The title of the abstract must be typed in bold and please capitalize the first letter of each noun. The title should be specific to the content. Use short titles and standard abbreviations (expand at its first instance). The authors' name(s) and affiliated institution(s) should be in the following style. The name of the presenting author should be underlined.

Availability of Essential Medicines in the Remote Public Health Facilities in Malaysia

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Abstract

Introduction: Approximately one-third of the world population particularly in Africa and Asia lack consistent access to essential medicines. Providing access to medicines by ensuring availability of essential medicines is one of the objectives of a national medicine policy. Assessing the availability of essential medicines will help in understanding and identifying areas for improvement in the medicines distribution and stock management system.

Objective: This study aimed to assess the availability of essential medicines in remote health facilities in Malaysia.

Methods: A retrospective cross-sectional survey covering 20 remote health facilities in four states (Selangor, Pahang, Johor and Sarawak) in Malaysia was conducted. A basket of drugs consisted of 10 highly utilised essential medicines listed in the Malaysian National Essential Medicine List was used to measure the availability, stockout days and time between order and delivery of the selected essential medicines.

Result: On average, availability of the selected essential medicines at twenty remote health facilities was found to be more than 95%. Average medicines stockout days in the four states ranged from 0 to 12 days. At the same time, the study found that the average days between order and delivery of the medicines in the four states were between 6 to 13 days.

Conclusion: Availability of essential medicines in the rural health facilities was high (above 95%) and is in line with the recommendations from World Health Organisation (WHO) of 80% availability of essential medicines to ensure equitable access and rational use of medicines. It is recommended that an in-depth study is performed to look into the factors contributing to the medicines stockout and delays in medicines delivery in Malaysia.

Keywords: delivery time, essential medicines, medicines access, medicines availability, stockouts

All abstracts must be written in concise English. Please carefully check the text for errors before submitting online as the quality of your submission may strongly affect the reviewers' scores.

All research abstracts involving directly/indirectly Ministry of Health (MOH) personnel, OR conducted in MOH facility OR funded by MOH research grant are **REQUIRED** to be registered with the National Medical Research Registry (NMRR) in concordance with the MOH policy on research. For non-MOH personnel, other ethics approval reference must be quoted.

To facilitate the abstract review process, additional information as below is needed. However, this information will not be published:

1. Does this research add new knowledge to the existing literature?
2. Has the knowledge been translated into practice or policy?
3. Does your research fit the conference theme?

ABSTRACT REVIEW

All submitted abstracts will be reviewed by at least three reviewers. The decision on the acceptance of any abstract will be made by the Scientific Committee based on the scores of abstract review. The committee will assign the abstract as either oral or poster presentation considering the authors' preference. Nevertheless, the committee's decision shall be final.

The decision about abstract acceptance and the required format for both oral presentation and poster presentation will be communicated to the corresponding authors. All communications will only be done with the corresponding authors. It is the responsibility of the corresponding authors to notify all other co-authors regarding the outcome of the Scientific Committee's decisions and should any action is required by the authors.

Decisions made by the Scientific Committee is final.

Criteria for the Review of Abstract

The criteria for abstract review are as below:

1. Originality
2. Justification / needs of research
3. Appropriateness of the methodology
4. Validity of the results and conclusions
5. Presentation and clarity
6. Abstract format
7. Language

Scoring System for Abstract Review

Item	Full marks	Item	Full marks
Title	5	Other (format, grammar, spelling, etc.)	10
Introduction	10	What's new / additional knowledge	20
Aim / Objective	10	Translation of research into practice or policy	20
Methods	20	The concordance of study to the conference's theme	20
Results	20		
Conclusion	10		
Keywords	5		
Total			150