

**A STUDY ON  
PRESCRIBING PATTERNS AND DRUG USE AT THIKA LEVEL  
5 HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT AND HOW THEY  
AFFECT PATIENT CARE**

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED BY  
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## ABSTRACT

Prescribing is the action of giving instructions for a person to get a specific dosage of a drug or a specific form of therapeutic treatment. This is usually done on a written document by a duly registered medical doctor/practitioner, clinical officer, nurse, dentist, veterinary surgeon or a registered pharmacist. It lists the drugs or devices such as inhalers, for the treatment, management or delivery of required therapeutic agents. Recently prescriptions have been made in electronic format with advances in technology.

The purpose of this study is to determine the patterns of prescribing by clinicians at the Thika level 5 hospital with major pointers checked being; prescribing of antibiotics, injections, drugs prescribed from the essential drug list, percentage of generics prescribed and the number of drugs prescribed per patient consultation/encounter. Patient care indicator variables checked; average consulting and dispensing times, percentage of drugs dispensed against those prescribed and the percentage of drugs adequately labeled at the time of dispensing the drugs to the patient.

This was done by carrying out an observational study where data was collected using tools such as prescribing indicator and the patient care indicator forms provided by WHO for use in tracking drug use in health facilities. The study technique used was a random selection of clinicians attending to patients at the outpatient department and the prescribing was collected. At the pharmacy department, patient care data was collected as pharmacists and pharmaceutical technologists attended to patients by dispensing, labeling of drugs and providing drug use information. On evaluation, prescribing of antibiotics was found to be relatively high (42.7% of all prescriptions), injections were rarely prescribed, there were found to be in the range of (0-6.7%), 77.2% of drug were prescribed from the essential drug lists and 79% of drugs prescribed by generic name. Average dispensing time of drugs to patients of 23.1 seconds at the main pharmacy, a percentage range of 67.6-88.5% of drugs actually dispensed from the prescriptions provided and 90.5% of drugs adequately labeled at the time of dispensing, these results were obtained at the facility from clinicians at the outpatient department and the pharmacy department. The results showed that there is room for further improvement in prescribing practice by clinicians as well as good dispensing practice in the pharmacy department to further enhance patient care and service delivery and goodwill by patients at the facility. The findings of the study can be used as reference to other related studies.