

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CHALLENGES IN DISPENSING OF DRUGS TO IN-
PATIENTS: A CASE STUDY OF HURUMA SUB-DISTRICT HOSPITAL**

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ABSTRACT

The study was aimed at assessing the challenges nurses face in issuance of drugs to in-patients. Despite the availability of drugs in most district hospitals, patients in these hospitals still continue to suffer from lack of medication causing stress among patients and prolonged illness among them. The study was guided by the following objectives; to evaluate the process of dispensing drugs in hospitals, to identify the factors that could affect the dispensing and to measure the extent to which the hospitals had dealt with factors affecting dispensing of drugs. The study targeted 88 nurses and they were selected through census sampling. The main data collection instrument to be used was questionnaires that were issued by the researcher to the respondents. The data collected was then analyzed descriptively, coded, and presented in graphs and tables. The findings indicated that 93.5% were of the statement that nurses are constrained by institutional factors when it comes to issuance of drugs, that 73% were of the statement that limited drug information by nurses especially in new drugs affects dispensing of drugs and also that 74.5% were of the statement that the hospital has trained nurses on new drug handling in order to deal with factors affecting dispensing of drugs. The findings concluded that nurses are constrained by institutional factors when it comes to issuance of drugs and recommended that district hospitals should erect pigeon holes in the hospitals where the doctors' notes/prescription are managed to ensure that the nurses are able to refer incase they don't know during drug dispensing.