

**A STUDY TO ESTABLISH THE PRESCRIBING PRACTICES IN
MOI UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL ELDORET**

**A research project submitted in partial fulfillment for the award of bachelor
of pharmacy degree of the Mount Kenya University**

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ABSTRACT

Rational drug use is an essential component in health care management. It is an age old concept, and as early as 300BC the Alexandria physician Herophilus stated that medicines are nothing in themselves but the very hands of god if employed with reason and prudence. The purpose of this study was to find out the number of drugs per encounter and establish the extent of antibiotic use as pointers to prescribing practices for providing information to the policy makers for further planning and identifying intervention strategies in Moi University. The study was conducted using a cross-sectional design which zeroed in on the patients attending the outpatient clinics in Moi University Hospital main campus Eldoret and the main target being the prescriptions retained in the pharmacy. The researcher used random sampling to achieve the required sample size for the study. The sample size comprised 5247 prescriptions out of the total over 28,749 encounters in the year. The World Health Organisation prescribing indicators were applied retrospectively to evaluate prescription records. A checklist for antibiotics and number of drugs per encounter was used to measure the prescribing practices. The analysis of the data was done by aid of excel spreadsheet 2007 after which the data was presented in tables, graphs and pie charts. The score of the study was compared with the outcome in other studies. According to the study, the number of drugs per encounter were within the range but antibiotics use is higher at an average of 65% antibiotics prescribed per encounter, and an average of 58% of all prescriptions containing three or more drugs in the study period. The study concluded that there was need to follow the world health organization recommendations in order to enable strict adherence to rational drug use principles such as rational prescription practices. From the study, the researcher recommends further study to establish the causes of irrational drug use.