# A Study on the Quality of Medicines in Community Pharmacies in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia 

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July, 2013

## Dissertation

# A Study on the Quality of Medicines in Community Pharmacies in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia 

Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology

Major Subject: Division of Life Sciences

Course:
Molecular Effects

School Registration No.:
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Dedication

To my beloved mather,
the soul of my great father,
and my beloved family...

## Acknowledgments

I would like to express my deep and warm thanks to my chief advisor, Professor Kazuko Kimura, for her valuable advice, constructive criticism and encouragement.

I also thank the following co-advisors, who offered all kinds of support and guidance: Associate Professor Henrik Pallos, Professor Manabu Akazawa, Associate Professor Hirohito Tsuboi, and Associate Professor Shimizu Sakae.

Many thanks are also to Assistant Professor Naoko Yoshida, Professor Hisham S. Abou-Auda, and all my colleagues in the Department of Drug Management and Policy for their continuous help in the laboratory.

Thanks are also offered to the Saudi Food and Drug Authority and the Saudi Ministry of Health for facilitating the survey procedures.

Finally I would like to thank the Heiwa Nakajima Foundation and the Prioritized Research Programs at Kanazawa University for funding.

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## List of Abbreviations

| Amox | Amoxicillin |
| :---: | :---: |
| AV | Acceptance Value |
| BP | British Pharmacopeia |
| CD | Compact Disc |
| Cefd | Cefadroxil |
| GPP | Good Pharmacy Practice |
| HPLC | High-Performance Liquid Chromatography |
| KSA | Kingdom of Saudi Arabia |
| LQAS | Lot Quality Assurance Sampling |
| MOH | Ministry of Health |
| MS | Microsoft |
| OTC | Over-the-Counter |
| PTP/SP | Push-Through Package/Strip Package |
| RS | Reference Standard |
| SFDA | Saudi Food and Drug Authority |
| STD | Standard |
| USA | United States of America |
| WHO | World Health Organization |
| USP | United States Pharmacopeia |
| USPRS | United States Pharmacopeia Reference Standard |


#### Abstract

Poor-quality medicines are real threats to individuals and health systems worldwide. In developing countries, life-saving medicines, such as antibiotics, are the main target of counterfeiters. Substandard medicines are extremely prevalent due to poor manufacturing, distribution, and/or storage conditions. Data on the quality of medicines in Arab countries are very limited. This thesis is divided into two major parts.

The first part investigated the quality of amoxicillin capsules and tablets sold in community pharmacies (CPs) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, as an indicator of the quality of medicines sold in them. It estimated the proportion of pharmacies that were selling poor-quality medicines relative to a predetermined threshold (20\%). It also field tested an economical sampling method for classifying the CPs according to the quality of their medicines in order to help decision makers with resource allocation.

Sampling was performed with the "mystery shopper" technique in 72 randomly selected CPs in Riyadh. The number of pharmacies for inclusion was calculated with Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) method. The initial 1367 pharmacies were divided into two lots: chain and independent pharmacies (869 and 498, respectively). From each lot, 36 pharmacies were randomly selected, and 80 dosage units of a randomly selected amoxicillin brand were purchased from each selected pharmacy. If this brand was from more than one batch, the batches were considered different samples purchased from the same pharmacy. If samples from the same batch were purchased from different pharmacies, the samples were also considered different. The samples were checked for authenticity and analyzed for their drug content and content uniformity (CU) according to the United States Pharmacopeia (USP) by a validated high-performance liquid chromatographic (HPLC) method. If a sample from a pharmacy was found to be of poor quality, that pharmacy was considered a failed


pharmacy. If the number of failed pharmacies exceeded a predetermined decision value (three) in any lot, the lot was rejected and the proportion of pharmacies selling poorquality amoxicillin was classified as higher than the predetermined threshold.

A total of 83 samples from 72 pharmacies were collected and analyzed (41 samples from chain pharmacies and 42 from independent pharmacies). The samples were found to be authentic, but 9 were substandard because they failed the CU test, with 6 of the 9 averaging less than $90 \%$ of the labeled content (the lowest was $80.7 \%$ ). The content of the approved samples ranged from $90.6 \%$ to $104.2 \%$. Certain batches passed the test in certain pharmacies and failed in others, indicating a possible degradation. The 9 failed samples were purchased from 4 chain and 5 independent pharmacies. Both lots were rejected because the predetermined decision value was exceeded, indicating that more than $20 \%$ of the pharmacies in each lot were selling poor-quality amoxicillin.

A problem existed with the quality of an essential drug in Riyadh's CPs. Exposure to excessive temperature during distribution or storage has unfavorable consequences on the quality of medicines, particularly in hot climates. This could be one of the possible reasons behind the existence of substandard amoxicillin in Riyadh's CPs. However, inefficient quality control at the manufacturing stage cannot be excluded.

The second part of the thesis explored the conditions under which medicines were kept in a random sample of 181 CPs in Riyadh. The pharmacist in charge in each pharmacy was interviewed and observations about the quality of storage were recorded.

The inspection revealed that in $9 \%$ of the CPs the readings of the existing room thermometers were more than $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$, and that $13 \%$ of the CPs lacked thermometers. Also in 33\% of the CPs the readings of the refrigerator thermometers were outside the accepted range, and 7\% of the CPs lacked refrigerator thermometers. About 15\% of pharmacists were not informed about the local regulations of community pharmacy
practice, neither before nor after taking up their current positions. Surprisingly, incorrect answers to simple questions about the system were frequently given by the informed pharmacists. Certain aspects of substandard storage conditions existed, in varying degrees, in significant percentages of pharmacies regardless of the pharmacists’ qualifications, experience, or awareness about the local regulations of community pharmacy practice.

Stricter monitoring of the supply chain in Riyadh is necessary. More studies to monitor the quality of medicines and pharmacies are recommended, together with improvements in the education of pharmacists and distributors about the importance of adhering to optimal conditions of keeping and selling medicines.

## Reference Theses

H. Khojah, H. Pallos, H. Tsuboi, N. Yoshida, H. Abou-Auda and K. Kimura, "Adherence of Community Pharmacies in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to Optimal Conditions for Keeping and Selling Good-Quality Medicines," Pharmacology \& Pharmacy, Vol. 4 No. 5, 2013, pp. 431-437. doi: 10.4236/pp.2013.45061.
H. Khojah, H. Pallos, N. Yoshida, M. Akazawa, H. Tsuboi and K. Kimura, "The Quality of Medicines in Community Pharmacies in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: A Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS)-Based Survey." Accepted for publication in Pharmacology \& Pharmacy Journal, Scientific Research Open Access, August 2013.

## Chapter 1

The Quality of Amoxicillin Capsules and Tablets in Community Pharmacies in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: A Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) Survey

## Background

Poor-quality medicines could be counterfeit or substandard. Counterfeit medicines are "deliberately and fraudulently mislabeled with respect to identity and/or source. Counterfeiting can apply to both branded and generic products and counterfeit products may include products with the correct ingredients or with the wrong ingredients, without active ingredients, with insufficient active ingredient or with fake packaging" ${ }^{[1]}$ In contrast, substandard medicines are "genuine medicines produced by legitimate manufacturers that do not meet the quality specifications that the producer says they meet. For example, they may contain less (or more) active ingredient than written on the package. This may not be an intention to cheat, but may be due to problems with the manufacturing process". ${ }^{[2]}$ Degraded medicines may be considered substandard, although they were originally genuine and of good quality. These medicines show deterioration subsequent to their expiration date or deterioration due to exposure to harsh environmental conditions during distribution and/or storage. ${ }^{[3,4]}$

The use of poor-quality medicines, especially counterfeits, may lead to a wide variety of health risks, including therapeutic failure, toxicity, bacterial resistance, and even death. ${ }^{[5]}$ Moreover, the economic consequences of this situation are undesirable. Furthermore, people may lose their trust in health systems. ${ }^{[6]}$

Counterfeit medicines have become a global issue because of the continuing growth in the market for these products and because of the consequences of their use. ${ }^{[7]}$ Although developing countries are the principal target of counterfeiters, ${ }^{[8,9]}$ developed countries face many of the same risks. ${ }^{[9,10]}$ Sadly, essential medicines (e.g., antimicrobials) are the most frequently targeted products of this type in developing
countries. ${ }^{[11]}$ For example, counterfeit anthelminthics have been reported in Cambodia, ${ }^{[12]}$ counterfeit antimalarials in several African countries, ${ }^{[13]}$ and substandard antibiotics in India. ${ }^{[14]}$ One study reported substandard amoxicillin in four Arab countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia). ${ }^{[15]}$ In that study, the content of amoxicillin in capsules and suspensions was investigated, although the number of samples collected from each country and the methodology of sample collection were not specified in detail. However, the authors concluded that the prevalence of substandard amoxicillin products in these Arab countries was high.

Studies with sound and reproducible methodology on the quality of medicines in developing countries are very limited. Convenience sampling is widely used for this purpose, even though bias is clearly introduced because usually only accessible pharmacies or outlets are selected. Formal random sampling generally requires a larger sample, longer surveying time, and more resources. For these reasons, Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) has been proposed as an economical technique to survey the quality of medicines sold in community pharmacies. ${ }^{[3]}$ LQAS was developed in the 1920s to assess the quality of industrial products by inspecting random samples. ${ }^{[16]}$ It was later adapted and successfully used in a variety of health care surveys and settings, ${ }^{[17]}$ such as the rapid assessment of the prevalence of active trachoma, ${ }^{[18]}$ assessing the prevalence of acute malnutrition, ${ }^{[19]}$ evaluation of the polio eradication initiative, ${ }^{[20]}$ and identifying inadequately performing areas for health services. ${ }^{[21]}$ However, it was not used for surveying the quality of medicines in the supply chain. Because LQAS uses a relatively small sample, it cannot determine the prevalence (rate) of outlets that sell low-quality medicines, but rather provides a way to classify the rate as either acceptable or unacceptable in terms of predetermined criteria. Thus, it may be
helpful to enable decision makers to properly allocate and distribute resources among various supervisory areas, and also provides an indication as to whether or not largerscale, randomized surveys are required.

In Saudi Arabia antibiotics are very commonly prescribed. ${ }^{[22-29]}$ Self-medication is a common practice, and several prescription medicines, including antibiotics, can be purchased without a prescription despite the government's regulations. ${ }^{[22,23]}$ Drug regulation in this country was originally the duty of the Ministry of Health (MOH), which established a strict system for pharmaceutical facilities and products. That system included detailed standards intended to ensure the best quality of medicines at all stages, from manufacturing to dispensing, if applied appropriately. ${ }^{[30]}$ Recently, the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) was established as an independent corporate body that reports directly to the President of the Council of Ministers. It is responsible for ensuring the safety of food and drugs for human and veterinary use and the safety of biological and chemical substances and medical devices. The establishment of the SFDA is still in its initial stage. By the end of this stage, all matters relating to drug regulation will be delegated to this authority. ${ }^{[31]}$

Amoxicillin is widely used because it is included in the list of essential drugs issued by the World Health Organization (WHO). ${ }^{[32]}$ It is also considered an essential drug in primary health care in Saudi Arabia. ${ }^{[33]}$ It is also among the most widely counterfeited medicines in developing countries. ${ }^{[9,11]}$ Substandard amoxicillin has already been identified in Saudi Arabia in one study. ${ }^{[15]}$ Furthermore, amoxicillin products, including suspensions and capsules, are sensitive to heat and may degrade easily at temperatures above $30{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} .{ }^{[34]}$ Therefore, amoxicillin was selected as an
indicator of the quality of medicines in the supply chain in Saudi Arabia, where high temperatures are common.

## Objectives

One of the aims of this study is to field test an economical, easily reproducible and statistically valid method for monitoring the quality of medicines in community pharmacies in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. This method estimates the proportion of pharmacies that sell poor-quality medicines relative to a predefined threshold. A finding that this threshold is exceeded is interpreted to indicate a significant problem that requires intervention by the SFDA. In addition, the results obtained with this method can help decision makers classify the quality of the provision of medicines and can therefore help with the allocation of resources. This method could be the first step in determining whether large-scale, randomized surveys are required and can serve as a baseline for future studies using the same sampling methodology. The study also provides reliable data about the quality of amoxicillin capsules and tablets sold in community pharmacies in Riyadh, as a model of an essential drug and a medicine quality indicator.

## The Null Hypothesis

Based on a review of the literature on the quality of amoxicillin in developing countries ${ }^{[9,11,15,35,36]}$ and considering the possible differences between these countries and Saudi Arabia (e.g., the economy and the regulatory environment), the null hypothesis was formulated that > 20\% of the community pharmacies in Riyadh, either chain or independent, sell poor-quality amoxicillin.

The design of this study and the sampling technique were approved by the Ethical Committee of Kanazawa University, as well as by the SFDA. Samples were collected between September 21 and October 3, 2010, in the city of Riyadh. The samples were shipped to Kanazawa University, Japan, in temperature-preserving containers on a secure courier after obtaining the necessary clearance documents from the SFDA and the Japanese Customs Department. The analysis was performed in the Department of Drug Management and Policy at Kanazawa University between May 25, 2011 and February 7, 2012 before the expiration dates of all samples, which were kept in their original packaging under controlled room temperature of $22^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ until analysis.

Because two levels of sampling (the selection of pharmacies and the selection of amoxicillin brands) were included in this study and to avoid any confusion, the term "sample" was used to indicate amoxicillin samples and the term "subject" for the pharmacies selected for the study. The term "target pharmacy" refers to pharmacies that sell poor-quality amoxicillin.

## Selection of Pharmacies

A list of registered community pharmacies and their addresses in Riyadh was obtained from the SFDA by July 2010 (1367 pharmacies). The pharmacies were then divided into two lots, chain and independent (869 and 498 pharmacies, respectively, with a total number of 82 chains). These two lots represented the sampling frames. A pharmacy was considered independent if it belonged to a group of $\leq 3$ pharmacies, whereas a chain pharmacy was considered to belong to a group of $\geq 4$ pharmacies. ${ }^{[37]}$ These lots, rather than geographical lots, were created to assess whether the quality of
medicines in pharmacies differs according to an economy of scale and to check the possible impact of the supply chain on the quality of medicines.

The required number of pharmacies required for the investigation was calculated according to the Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) technique. LQAS employs a binomial formula (Figure 1.1) that requires predefined upper and lower prevalence (or rate) thresholds for the target subjects in a lot to classify the lot as a high- or a lowprevalence lot in terms of the proportion of target subjects. The formula must be applied for both thresholds to calculate the probability of correctly classifying a lot at both thresholds (sensitivity and specificity) and the associated alpha and beta errors (chances or risks) of misclassification. Probability (or error) calculation is performed for all possible combinations of the numbers of subjects (target and non-target), increasing the

$$
\begin{array}{|lcc}
P_{x}=\frac{n!}{x!(n-x)!} p^{x} q^{n-x} & P_{x}=\frac{\binom{S}{x}\binom{N-S}{n-x}}{\binom{N}{n}} & a!=a \Gamma(a) \\
\text { The binomial formula } & \begin{array}{c}
\text { The hypergeometric } \\
\text { formula }
\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}
\text { The factorial of } \\
\text { a fraction }
\end{array} \\
\hline \begin{array}{l}
\mathrm{P}=\text { the probability calculated at } \mathrm{p} . \\
\mathrm{x}=\text { decision rule (i.e., number of target } \\
\text { pharmacies out of } \mathrm{n}) .
\end{array} & \mathrm{S}=\text { predefined number of target } \\
\text { pharmacies out of } \mathrm{N} \text { (i.e., } \mathrm{p} \times \mathrm{N}) .
\end{array}
$$

Figure 1.1. LQAS equations.
total number of subjects by 1 after each round of combinations of each total, until the minimum number of total subjects coinciding with the lowest possible combination of actual errors ( $\leq$ the predefined errors) and their sum is reached at both thresholds simultaneously. At this latter combination, the total number of subjects represents the number of subjects required for the study, and the number of target subjects (associated with the condition being studied) represents the decision rule. If this decision rule is exceeded, the lot is classified as a high-prevalence lot relative to the condition under study. Otherwise, the lot is classified as a low-prevalence lot. The probabilities (or errors) obtained at each combination must be cumulative (the sum of the current and the previous values in the same round of combinations). Finally, the condition under study determines whether the lot is accepted or rejected if it is classified as either high- or low-prevalence. A consumer risk occurs when a lot is misclassified as "good" (i.e., misclassified as having a high rate of good subjects or a low rate of bad subjects), and a provider risk occurs when a lot is misclassified as "bad" (i.e., misclassified as having a high rate of bad subjects or a low rate of good subjects). The classification of an error (alpha or beta) as either a consumer risk or a provider risk depends on the formulation of the null hypothesis and, consequently, on the definitions of the thresholds.

In this study, the target subjects are the pharmacies that sell poor-quality amoxicillin. Ideally, no pharmacy in any lot would sell poor-quality medicines. However, studies from developing countries have reported a variety of rates of counterfeit and substandard antimicrobials ranging from $2.8 \%$ to more than $50 \%$, with the majority of the rates within a range of $30-40 \%$. ${ }^{[9]}$ In addition, a variable content of amoxicillin, ranging from $0 \%$ to $85 \%$, was reported in several studies that documented poor-quality amoxicillin. ${ }^{[9,11,15,35,36]}$ Based on those studies and the specific economy
and regulatory environment in Saudi Arabia, the following upper and lower prevalence thresholds were adopted in this study: a lot with a rate of target pharmacies $>20 \%$ was classified as a high-prevalence lot (and hence rejected), whereas a lot with a rate of target pharmacies $\leq 5 \%$ was classified as a low-prevalence lot. This classification is not ideal. However, it is acceptable because it requires minimal resources relative to those needed to improve high-prevalence lots. The LQAS decision rule only classifies the rate as either $>$ the predefined upper threshold or $\leq$ the predefined lower threshold. It is not sensitive to rates between these thresholds. The consumer risk (alpha error) was specified as a predetermined value of $\leq 0.05$. This value represents the probability of rejecting a true null hypothesis (classifying a high-prevalence lot as low-prevalence). The provider risk (beta error) was specified as a predetermined value of $\leq 0.10$. This value represents the probability of failing to reject a false null hypothesis (classifying a low-prevalence lot as high-prevalence).

The binomial LQAS formula is preferred if the population size is either unknown or very large. ${ }^{[38]}$ However, the hypergeometric model of LQAS was used in this study for sample size and decision rule calculation (Figure 1.1) because each subject pharmacy was included only once and because the population size of pharmacies in each lot was known and relatively small. These characteristics allow the actual errors to be calculated more accurately. ${ }^{[39,40]}$ In this model, the gamma function is used for the calculation of factorials of fractions (Figure 1.1). The minimum number of subject pharmacies that produced the lowest combination of errors at both thresholds was 36 pharmacies from each lot, with 3 as the value for the decision rule. Table 1.1 shows a part of the calculation process. If the number of pharmacies that sell poorquality amoxicillin exceeds the decision rule, the entire lot is classified as a lot with a
high prevalence of pharmacies that sell poor-quality amoxicillin and will therefore be rejected. This outcome implies that more resources must be directed toward the lot to investigate and correct the situation. Otherwise, the lot will be classified as a lowprevalence lot, one requiring fewer resources. A calculator that uses this calculation method is available online. ${ }^{[41]}$

Table 1.1. Part of the calculation process for deciding the required number of subject pharmacies and the decision rule.

| x | Sensitivity (at upper threshold $=0.20$ ) | Cumulative alpha error (consumer risk) | Cumulative specificity (at lower threshold $=0.05$ ) | Beta error (provider risk) | Total error |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| For chain pharmacies ( $\mathrm{N}=869$ ) when $\mathrm{n}=36$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0 | 0.9997 | 0.0003 | 0.1517 | 0.8483 | 0.8486 |
| 1 | 0.9972 | 0.0028 | 0.4519 | 0.5481 | 0.5509 |
| 2 | 0.9855 | 0.0145 | 0.7336 | 0.2664 | 0.2809 |
| 3 | 0.9512 | 0.0488 | 0.9006 | 0.0994 | 0.1482 |
| 4 | 0.8783 | 0.1217 | 0.9708 | 0.0292 | 0.1509 |
| 5 | 0.7591 | 0.2409 | 0.9931 | 0.0069 | 0.2478 |
| 6 | 0.6027 | 0.3973 | 0.9987 | 0.0013 | 0.3986 |
| For independent pharmacies ( $\mathrm{N}=498$ ) when $\mathrm{n}=36$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0 | 0.9998 | 0.0002 | 0.1471 | 0.8529 | 0.8531 |
| 1 | 0.9975 | 0.0025 | 0.4481 | 0.5519 | 0.5544 |
| 2 | 0.9866 | 0.0134 | 0.7348 | 0.2652 | 0.2786 |
| 3 | 0.9538 | 0.0462 | 0.9039 | 0.0961 | 0.1423 |
| 4 | 0.8823 | 0.1177 | 0.9732 | 0.0268 | 0.1445 |
| 5 | 0.7633 | 0.2367 | 0.9941 | 0.0059 | 0.2426 |
| 6 | 0.6054 | 0.3946 | 0.9990 | 0.0010 | 0.3956 |

The first 7 rows of probability combinations are shown. $\mathrm{x}=$ decision rule, $\mathrm{N}=$ population size, $\mathrm{n}=$ required number of subject pharmacies, sensitivity $=1$ - cumulative alpha error, Beta error = 1 - cumulative specificity.
Minimum accepted errors (and their sum) occur when $\mathrm{x}=3$ in the round of n when $\mathrm{n}=36$ for each lot (shaded areas of the table). This indicates that the smallest required number of subject pharmacies is 36 . If the calculation continues, other good combinations will be obtained. However, this would require additional pharmacies. At $\mathrm{n}=36$, the finding of $\leq$ 3 target pharmacies indicates that their rate in the corresponding lot is $\leq 5 \%$. However, this rate is acceptable according to the predefined thresholds in this study. The finding of $>3$ target pharmacies means that their rate is $>20 \%$. Because this rate is unacceptable, the corresponding lot (i.e., category of pharmacy) is rejected.

It is worth mentioning that formal random sampling would have required a 4- to 5-fold larger number of pharmacies in each category, and therefore the resources required would have been 4 - to 5 -fold greater. This represents a significant advantage for LQAS, especially in developing countries.

An initial alphabetical list of pharmacies in each lot was created, and each pharmacy was given a special code. Each coded list was then scrambled, and $45(36+9)$ pharmacies were randomly selected from each list by one of the co-investigators with MS Excel 2010 (Microsoft Co., USA). The additional 9 pharmacies represented a reserve for an estimated dropout rate of $25 \%$. A pharmacy could be excluded, and replaced by one from the reserve list, for any of the following reasons: (a) the pharmacy was closed on the second visit, (b) the pharmacy was out of business, (c) the pharmacy did not have a sufficient number of amoxicillin dosage units (80 units from the available brands), or (d) the pharmacy refused to sell amoxicillin without a prescription. The randomly selected pharmacies from both lots were grouped by districts to facilitate sample collection. The same district distribution used in the list of pharmacies provided by the SFDA, in which the total number of districts was 114 , was followed in this study (Annex 1.1). Sampling continued until samples had been purchased from 36 pharmacies in each lot.

## Amoxicillin Sampling

The "mystery shopper" technique was used in the purchasing of the samples because an unwanted change in the seller's behavior might result if the identity of the investigator was known to the seller. ${ }^{[22,43]}$ Such behavioral changes might include noncooperation or hiding poor-quality products available at the pharmacy. The investigator,
a Saudi Arabian citizen, played the role of the mystery shopper and was accompanied by two co-investigators in the field. This sampling technique was field tested prior to actual sampling and was standardized using the same scenario in each pharmacy. In this scenario, the sampler asked the seller to show him all brands of amoxicillin capsules and tablets available in 4-5 packs (80 dosage units) because one of the sampler's friends wanted the medicine. The sampler also told the seller that he would call his friend to tell him about the available brands and strengths to allow the friend to select the product to be purchased. Then, all brands and strengths that were available in sufficient quantities were numbered in a list reflecting the order in which the seller presented them, excluding any clavulanate-containing products. Each strength of a given brand was treated as a separate brand. A mobile telephone operated by Windows Mobile was used to rapidly generate a random number between 1 and the highest number on the list from Excel Mobile. This procedure was conducted while the sampler appeared to be making the call. In this way, one brand of amoxicillin capsules or tablets was randomly purchased from each randomly selected pharmacy.

If the 80 dosage units were from more than one batch, they were considered different samples purchased from the same pharmacy (i.e., a sample was a number of dosage units of the same batch purchased from a single pharmacy). Samples from the same batch of the same brand purchased from different pharmacies were considered different samples. If a sample from a pharmacy was found to be of poor quality, the pharmacy was considered a failed pharmacy.

After sampling from each pharmacy, the sampler and one of the co-investigators immediately completed the sampling form outside the pharmacy. The contents of the sampling form are shown in Table 1.2 and the sampling form is available in Annex 1.2.

Samples were immediately placed in a temperature-preserving container. The car air conditioner was operating effectively during all sampling trips. Amoxicillin brands were coded with the letters A-P.

## Amoxicillin Authenticity Investigations

Dosage units, strips, boxes, and package inserts of all samples were visually inspected. Parts of all those items were sent to the corresponding manufacturers for authenticity confirmation including a special form (Annex 1.3). The SFDA was contacted to verify the registration status of the products.

## Analysis and Materials

The content uniformity test was performed using high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) according to the $34^{\text {th }}$ edition of the United States

Table 1.2. Sampling information.

| Pharmacy code and type | Batch number |
| :--- | :--- |
| Sample code | Manufacture date |
| Sampling date | Expiration date |
| Package condition and type | Price |
| Trade name | Pharmacy name |
| Manufacturer's name | Pharmacy type |
| Manufacturer's country | Pharmacy address |
| Distributor in Saudi Arabia | Pharmacy general neatness |
| Dosage form | Exposure of shelves to sunlight |
| Strength | Quality of air-conditioning |
| Package size | Pharmacist nationality and qualification |
| Registration number in Saudi Arabia | Willingness of selling unregistered drugs |

Pharmacopeia (USP 34). ${ }^{[44,45]}$ The only difference was using a shorter HPLC column ( 15 cm instead of 25 cm ). However, the use of the shorter column would not affect the results as long as the method was validated. All samples were submitted to the first stage of the test, which involved 10 dosage units of each sample. Failed samples were challenged at the second stage, which involved 20 additional units. However, samples that were outside the deviation range of the first stage were treated as permanently failed without the need for a second stage of testing, as indicated by the USP. For every sample the amoxicillin content, which should range from $90.0 \%-120.0 \%$ for capsules and $90.0 \%-110.0 \%$ for tablets, according to the USP, was calculated by averaging the content of the dosage units analyzed in the content uniformity test.

All chemicals used were of analytical grade. Acetonitrile, potassium dihydrogen phosphate, and potassium hydroxide were purchased from Nakalai Tesque (Kyoto, Japan). The diluent was prepared by accurately dissolving 13.6 g of potassium dihydrogen phosphate in 2000 mL of distilled water adjusted with potassium hydroxide solution to a pH of 5 . The mobile phase was prepared by mixing acetonitrile and the diluent in a ratio of 4:96.

The HPLC system consisted of the following components from JASCO (Tokyo, Japan): a pump (PU-2080 Plus), a UV detector (UV-2075 Plus) set at 230 nm , a column thermostat (CO-1560), a degasser (DG-980-50), a system controller (LC-Net II/ADC), and an autosampler (AS-950). The system was equipped with a Shim-pack CLC-ODS (M) column-a $4.6 \times 150 \mathrm{~mm}$ column filled with $70 \%$ methanol from Shimadzu (Kyoto, Japan). The system was linked with a computer running ChromNav software from JASCO (Tokyo, Japan) for interpreting the results and plotting curves and peaks.

Standard amoxicillin, conforming to the USP Reference Standard (USPRS), was obtained from the Department of Medical Sciences, Bureau of Drug and Narcotic, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand. Standard cefadroxil, from Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA), was used as the internal standard.

Peaks of amoxicillin and cefadroxil were observed at 6 and 8 minutes, respectively, with a flow rate of $0.6 \mathrm{~mL} / \mathrm{min}$ (Figure 1.2). The linearity of the standard amoxicillin/diluent solution was maintained between 0.025 and $0.5 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{mL}$ and the analytical range was $0.05-0.4 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{mL}$ (Figure 1.3). The linearity of the standard cefadroxil/diluent solution was maintained between 0.025 and $0.2 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{mL}$ and the analytical range was $0.05-0.15 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{mL}$ (Figure 1.4).

A daily calibration curve was produced by 3 concentrations of standard amoxicillin ( $0.05,0.10$, and $0.2 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{mL}$ ) prepared from a freshly prepared stock solution of $1 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{mL}$ (on anhydrous base). A daily stock solution of standard cefadroxil ( 0.2 $\mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{mL}$ on anhydrous base) was freshly prepared and was added to all sample and


Figure 1.2. Retention times of amoxicillin and cefadroxil peaks ( 6 and 8 minutes, respectively). Amox $=$ amoxicillin, and Cefd $=$ cefadroxil.
calibration solutions to obtain a final concentration of $0.1 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{mL}$ in each solution (Figure 1.5).

The samples were analyzed in the order of their expiration dates. Each capsule was completely emptied, and the powder was dissolved in 200 or 400 mL of the diluent according to the capsule strength ( 250 or 500 mg , respectively). The flask was shaken


Figure 1.3. Linearity of amoxicillin solution, using cefadroxil as an internal standard.


Figure 1.4. Linearity of cefadroxil solution.
vigorously 20 times and sonicated for 20 minutes. All tablets were of 500 mg strength. Each tablet was ground to fine powder in a mortar and was then dissolved in 400 mL of the diluent, shaken vigorously 20 times, sonicated for 5 minutes, and stirred for 30 minutes. Part of the solution was then centrifuged and the supernatant was used for analysis. The necessary dilution was then made for each sample solution with the diluent and the internal standard solution so that the theoretical concentration of amoxicillin would fall within the analytical range (Figure 1.6).

The final sample and calibration solutions were filtered through $0.2 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ Minisart RC 4 syringe filters from Sartorius Stedim (Dublin, Ireland). All solutions were used within 6 hours of preparation and analyzed in triplicate.

For method validation, Intra- and inter-day precision were determined by analyzing three solutions of standard amoxicillin of different concentrations ( $0.06,0.12$,


Figure 1.5. Daily preparation of amoxicillin calibration curve using cefadroxil as an internal standard. Amox = amoxicillin, Cefd = cefadroxil, STD = standard solution.
and $0.18 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{mL}$ ) over a period of three days. An accuracy test for the method was performed by applying the standard-addition (spiking) recovery technique. Using this technique, one dosage unit from each strength of each brand of amoxicillin tablets and capsules was analyzed for amoxicillin content. Standard amoxicillin was then added to three aliquots of the pre-analyzed solution in three different concentrations ( $0.025,0.05$, $0.075 \mathrm{mg} / \mathrm{mL}$ ), and the solutions were analyzed again to determine the total amoxicillin concentration. Finally, the recovered amount of added amoxicillin was calculated. This test was repeated three times using three dosage units, and the average recovery was calculated (Figure 1.7). All values of standard deviation, relative standard deviation, and relative error for both precision and accuracy were less than $2 \%$, based on a $95 \%$ confidence interval. These values were considered satisfactory.


Figure 1.6. Steps for sample analysis. Cefd= cefadroxil.


Figure 1.7. Steps for the accuracy test. Amox = amoxicillin, Cefd = cefadroxil, RS = reference standard.

Eighty-five pharmacies (43 chain and 42 independent) were visited during the sampling period in 53 of the 114 districts of Riyadh. The dropout was 7 and 6 for chain and independent pharmacies, respectively. Dropouts occurred for reasons a, b, and c, mentioned above (5, 4, and 4 pharmacies, respectively). No major differences for dropping out were found between the independent and chain lots. No pharmacies were excluded because they refused to sell amoxicillin without a prescription.

In all, 83 samples were collected from 72 randomly selected subject pharmacies. Of these samples, 41 were collected from chain pharmacies and 42 from independent pharmacies (Table 1.3 and Annex 1.4). Six samples (7\%) were tablets, two of which were purchased from chain pharmacies and the rest from independent pharmacies. The remaining samples were all capsules. Twenty-eight samples (35\%) were locally manufactured, 47 (57\%) were imported from other Arab countries, and 7 (8\%) were imported from Europe. The samples included 16 brands produced by 10 manufacturers. These samples represented all the manufacturers registered by the SFDA at the time of sampling.

Visual inspection revealed that all the samples were neatly packaged in boxes containing push-through strips and a pamphlet. All samples and packaging of each brand were identical and included the registration code in Saudi Arabia, as well as the price and the name of the distributor. The price was identical for each sample of the same brand. The batch numbers, manufacturing dates and expiration dates on the boxes and strips were found to match. Authenticity was confirmed by all manufacturers, seven of whom responded in writing and three by telephone. However, their responses to the
attached questionnaire were not complete. Finally, the registration status of each product and manufacturer was confirmed by the SFDA.

One sample was outside the deviation range of the first stage of the content uniformity test and failed the test for this reason. Fourteen samples failed the first-stage acceptance value (AV = 15\%). Eight of these samples failed the second stage and hence

Table 1.3. Distribution of samples and batches.

| Brand code | Number of samples ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  |  | Number of batches ${ }^{\text {b }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | From 36 chain pharmacies | From 36 independent pharmacies | Total |  |
| $\mathrm{A}^{\text {c }}$ | 4 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
| $\mathrm{B}^{\text {c }}$ | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 |
| $\mathrm{C}^{\text {d }}$ | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| $\mathrm{D}^{\text {d }}$ | 3 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| $E^{\text {d }}$ | 3 | 7 | 10 | 6 |
| $\mathrm{F}^{\text {e }}$ | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| $\mathrm{G}^{\text {e }}$ | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| $\mathrm{H}^{\text {d }}$ | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| $\mathrm{I}^{\text {d }}$ | 6 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| $\mathrm{J}^{\text {c }}$ | 1 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| $\mathrm{K}^{\text {d }}$ | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| $L^{\text {e }}$ | 0 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| $M^{\text {d }}$ | 4 | 6 | 10 | 10 |
| $\mathrm{N}^{\mathrm{c}}$ | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| $\mathrm{O}^{\text {c }}$ | 5 | 1 | 6 | 2 |
| $\mathrm{P}^{\text {d }}$ | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Total | 41 | 42 | 83 | 57 |
| ${ }^{\text {a }}$ A samp another brand p <br> ${ }^{\mathrm{b}}$ The num without <br> ${ }^{\text {c }}$ Manufa <br> ${ }^{\mathrm{d}}$ Importe <br> ${ }^{\mathrm{e}}$ Importe | batch purchased macy, it is consid sed from the sam of batches of the ition. <br> in Saudi Arabia other Arab cou Europe. | single pharm a different sa macy are also onding brand | e same <br> ferent <br> d as di <br> drom | purchased of the same samples. <br> macies |

failed the test. In all, a total of 9 samples (11\%) failed the test. All of these samples were capsules. The failed samples were purchased from 9 pharmacies (4 chain and 5 independent) that belonged to different chains or owners and included five brands from four manufacturers (Figure 1.8). However, no sample for brand C was purchased from any independent pharmacy. The content of 6 of the failed samples was below $90 \%$. The lowest content was $80.7 \%$. The content of the approved samples ranged from $90.6 \%$ to 104.2\% (Figure 1.9). Interestingly, certain batches of certain brands passed the content and/or content uniformity tests in some pharmacies, but failed in others (Table 1.4). A summary of the sample analyses can be found in Annex 1.5.

The number of pharmacies that sold poor-quality amoxicillin in each lot of pharmacies was greater than the decision value of 3 . For this reason, both the chain and independent lots were rejected. As a result, the null hypothesis failed to be rejected, and both lots were classified as high-prevalence lots. This result shows that more than $20 \%$ of the pharmacies in each lot sell poor-quality amoxicillin, an outcome suggestive of a significant problem with important public health implications.

The following observations were recorded while visiting the pharmacies for sampling. The air-conditioning was totally unsatisfactory in one independent pharmacy and one medicine shelf was exposed to direct sunlight in another independent pharmacy. Neatness and cleanliness was satisfactory in all pharmacies. Surprisingly a prescription was not requested by all pharmacies, and instructions about the use of amoxicillin were not offered by all of them. It was also noted that in some pharmacies there were certain signs stating clearly that prescription-only medicines cannot be sold without prescriptions. This sign was not seen in 8 (22\%) chain pharmacies and 11 (31\%)
independent pharmacies. All pharmacists in the visited pharmacies were non-Saudis.
Tabulated pharmacy information can be found in Annex 1.6.


Figure 1.8. Distribution of failed samples.

Table 1.4. Batches that passed in some pharmacies but failed in others.

| Brand | Samples of the same batch |  | Content uniformity acceptance value <br> (\%) ${ }^{a}$ | Average content (\%) | Pharmacy type |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | No. | Status |  |  |  |
| B | 1 | Failed | 15.66 | 92.36 | Independent |
|  | 2 | Passed | 07.35 | 94.74 | Independent |
| D | 1 | Failed | 19.92 | 86.81 | Independent |
|  | 2 | Passed | 14.20 | 91.11 | Independent |
| O | 1 | Failed | 27.06 | 84.43 | Independent |
|  | 2 | Passed | 05.57 | 95.96 | Chain |
|  | 3 | Passed | 08.46 | 95.38 | Chain |
|  | 4 | Passed | 13.21 | 93.57 | Chain |
| P | 1 | Failed | 15.08 | 90.66 | Independent |
|  | 2 | Failed | 17.24 | 91.89 | Independent |
|  | 3 | Passed | 08.26 | 95.41 | Independent |
| ${ }^{\text {a }}$ Acceptance value must be $\leq 15 \%$. |  |  |  |  |  |



Figure 1.9. Content distribution of all samples.

Although counterfeit products were not identified by this survey, substandard samples represented $11 \%$ of the total samples. This result may indicate a high prevalence of substandard amoxicillin products in community pharmacies in Riyadh. This finding is consistent with the findings of Kyriacos et al., ${ }^{[15]}$ although the sample size for the amoxicillin products purchased in Saudi Arabia was not specified in that study. It was also found in this study, as in that previous study, that all European samples passed the quality tests used. In addition, all tablet forms passed the quality tests. However, it is difficult to perform a valid comparison due to the small percentage of European samples (8\%). Similarly, it cannot be stated conclusively that tablet forms are more stable than capsules because of the small percentage of tablets (7\%). However, small percentages of tablet forms and European products were expected to be found in Saudi Arabia because the sales of these items during the second quarter of 2009, expressed as percentages of the total sale of amoxicillin capsules and tablets, were $3.96 \%$ and $4.32 \%$, respectively, according to the SFDA (personal communication).

In this study it was also found that certain batches passed the content and/or content uniformity test in certain pharmacies and failed in others. This result suggests the occurrence of degraded products that were originally of good quality and suggests that degradation may have occurred due to poor storage and/or distribution conditions (Table 1.4). In general, Riyadh climate is arid with extreme increase of temperature in summer and decrease in winter. The samples were collected during a very hot season, when the outside temperature in Riyadh during the daytime reached approximately $45^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Poor temperature control in the distributors' facilities, such as warehouses and delivery vehicles, could have been resulted in the degradation of amoxicillin. Also,
although the air conditioning in the vast majority of the visited pharmacies was satisfactory during sampling, the possibility that the air conditioners failed or were not used in certain pharmacies at certain times cannot be excluded. In addition, possible poor quality control practices during the manufacturing of several other batches that totally failed cannot be excluded. This hypothesis is supported by the appearance of the powder of the capsules of several failed samples from a certain manufacturer. The powder was in the form of a hard mass that appeared to have formed when the sample became dry after having been in a hygroscopic state. This observation suggests that the problem was caused by poor packaging.

The average content of the active ingredient in the failed samples was greater than $80 \%$. This value contrasts with the low values found by Kyriacos et al. (59\%). ${ }^{[15]} \mathrm{A}$ lower content of amoxicillin was also reported in another study in Nigeria. Only 24\% of the amount shown on the label was found in that study. ${ }^{[35]}$ Counterfeit or substandard amoxicillin was found in several countries. The reported amoxicillin content of these products varied, reaching zero in certain cases. ${ }^{[9]}$ However, the results of this study seem consistent with the findings of a study conducted in Indonesia, where $20 \%$ of the amoxicillin tablets analyzed contained an amount of active ingredient slightly below the lower acceptable range according to the British Pharmacopeia (BP). ${ }^{[36]}$ It should be noted that in this study, based on the content range of $92.5-110 \%$ specified in the BP 2012, ${ }^{[46]}$ two more samples would have failed the content test (one sample from each lot).

Nevertheless, the existence of a substandard essential medicine in community pharmacies in Riyadh, a capital city where inspection and monitoring are expected to be relatively strict, suggests that poor-quality medicines with a lower content of the active
ingredient would be prevalent in other cities or in remote areas of the country due to less strict monitoring and control and less satisfactory storage and/or distribution conditions.

In addition, the problem appears to exist regardless of the economy of scale of pharmacies (chain or independent). The number of pharmacies selling poor-quality amoxicillin exceeded the decision value in both lots. For this reason, the lots were both considered to have high prevalence rates. This finding suggests that possible intervention strategies should target both types of community pharmacies, regardless of the anticipated quality of the service provided.

The LQAS technique with a mystery shopper provided a readily reproducible and statistically valid sample collection method that requires a small sample. The use of this method is recommend for future monitoring by the SFDA or other investigators in Saudi Arabia. It is also recommended that that this methodology be followed as a model for investigating the quality of other medicines and pharmacies in Saudi Arabia, and probably other countries. This methodology can be also used as a follow-up technique to monitor the changes that may occur following suitable intervention. However, the medicine selected as an indicator of the quality of medicines may need to be changed according to the geographical area surveyed. In this study, amoxicillin was selected because it is widely used, widely counterfeited, and heat-labile (Riyadh is very hot during summer), and also because substandard amoxicillin was reported in Saudi Arabia in one study.

In theory, LQAS sampling can be terminated if the decision rule is exceeded at an early stage of the survey. In this way, the target can be achieved with minimal cost and time. The termination of sampling at an early stage was not possible in this study, but this outcome may be achieved for other analytical procedures that can be conducted
in the field. In addition, the results of the survey could indicate whether large-scale, randomized surveys are required for further investigation of the problem.

## Limitations

The following limitations may have affected the extent to which the results of this study can be generalized. First, only capsule and tablet dosage forms were sampled because suspension bottles are bulky and may break easily during shipping to Japan, where the analysis was performed. Therefore, the findings of this study cannot be expanded to other amoxicillin dosage forms.

Second, it was not possible to collect samples of a single batch from each pharmacy because asking the seller about batches would have revealed that the pharmacy was under investigation. As a result, more than one sample was obtained from several pharmacies. However, if a sample from a given pharmacy failed in the analysis, then the pharmacy failed in the lot, regardless of the quality of the other sample(s) purchased from the same pharmacy.

Third, samples were analyzed in the order of their expiration dates by the investigator, who was not blinded as to the samples being analyzed, but was blinded as to the pharmacies from which the sample(s) were obtained. Unintentional expectation bias might have been introduced because the investigator is a Saudi Arabian clinical pharmacist. However, this factor is unlikely to have affected the results of the study because several samples failed from certain pharmacies but passed from others and because the samples were repeatedly measured with a validated method.

Fourth, only content and content uniformity tests were applied in this study. The analysis of impurities or excipients was not performed, nor the dissolution test.

Therefore, "quality" in this study refers only to the acceptable amount and uniformity of the active ingredient in terms of the range specified by the USP. If the amount of active ingredient was outside the range, it was concluded that the sample failed, irrespective of other quality parameters. Moreover, degradation products were not analyzed for characterizing the failed samples as substandard or degraded. However, some samples passed the tests while other samples from the same batch but purchased from different pharmacies failed them, a finding suggestive of the degradation issues. There are several methods that can differentiate between degraded and originally substandard amoxicillin. ${ }^{[47,48]}$ These methods may be used in future studies.

Finally, because LQAS requires smaller sample sizes, this study does not provide an accurate estimate of the prevalence of poor-quality amoxicillin or of poorquality pharmacies. However, the objective was not to provide an accurate prevalence rate but to classify reliably whether the prevalence rate of poor-quality medicines or pharmacies was above or below the threshold defined in the null hypothesis. With a larger sample size, which requires more resources for sampling and analysis, stratified random sampling is still the best method for accurate prevalence estimation. However, the LQAS method could help decision makers with limited resources to classify health system services, such as the provision of medicines in community pharmacies, according to a predetermined threshold. The results of such analyses could help decision makers allocate the resources intended for improvement accordingly even if the number of rejected pharmacies in any lot is less than the decision rule.

Although this study has several limitations, it can be concluded from its results that deficiencies in the quality control of the supply chain and/or storage exist in Riyadh, either at the level of wholesalers or pharmacies, in addition to possible manufacturing defects for certain brands of amoxicillin. Based on this conclusion, the SFDA is advised to perform routine monitoring of wholesalers and pharmacy storage facilities, distribution facilities, and environmental settings inside pharmacies (e.g., temperature, humidity and exposure to sunlight). In addition, distributors, pharmacy owners, and pharmacists should be educated about the possible consequences of failing to adhere to appropriate distribution and storage conditions for the provision of medicines.

Quality inspection at the level of manufacturing must also be strengthened, and optimal conditions must be maintained during the clearance of imported medicines.

Finally, it is strongly recommend that additional research similar to the current study be conducted to investigate the quality of provision for other medicines in Riyadh and other areas of Saudi Arabia, as well as the quality of community pharmacies in terms of their adherence to the optimal conditions for keeping and selling medicines and the services provided by these pharmacies. Larger-scale randomized surveys would be helpful to further delineate the scale of the quality-control problem in Saudi Arabia.

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Annex 1.1. Maps


Map of Saudi Arabia. Riyadh is represented by a red dot.


Map of Riyadh showing its districts. Surveyed districts are marked with red dots.

## Annex 1.2. Sampling form

## Sampling Form

Quality of Amoxicillin Capsules and Tablets at Private Pharmacies in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: LQAS Survey
Pharmacy Code: SAR-10-PH - C/I- $\square \square \square \square$
Sample Code: SAR-10-AM- -C/T- $\square \square \square$
Date Purchased: $D \square / \square / M / M / 2010$

Date Purchased:


## Annex 1.3. Manufacturer authenticity check form

## KANAZAWA UNIVERSITY

Institute of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences

To : The Manager/Director/Other:
Company Address

## From : Hani M. Khojah

Pharmacist, Ph.D. candidate
Department of Drug Management and Policy, Kanazawa University, Japan
RE : Confirmation of authenticity of a medicine

## Dear Sir/Madam

As you definitely know, the market of counterfeit medicines is growing worldwide with all the possible hazards to consumers, providers, and national health systems.

I am conducting a research on the quality of medicines in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) under the approval of the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA). I have already collected medicine samples from a variety of private pharmacies in Riyadh, KSA. Some of the samples belong to your company, as stated on the packages.

Find please attached the following items (see the table below for details):

- ... plastic bags, each containing one sample:
$\checkmark$ Each bag has a label on it.
$\checkmark$ On the label, the bag number and the sample code number are written.
$\checkmark$ The bag number is written on the label inside a circle and in red color.
$\checkmark$ Some samples may contain only a small part of the medicine strip ( 2 capsules/ tablets), with or without the medicine box and pamphlet (package insert). This is intentional because I do not have enough number of boxes and/or dosage forms of certain samples. You can find scanned images or photos of the boxes, pamphlets, and full strips of such samples in the attached compact disc (CD) (see below).
- A CD that contains the following:
$\checkmark$ Photos and scanned images of the boxes, pamphlets, and full strips of all samples including those samples that were sent as only a small part of the medicine strip (mentioned above).
$\checkmark$ Folder names in the CD are similar to sample code numbers.
$\checkmark$ A copy of this letter and the attached forms (in Microsoft Word 2007 Document format) that may make it easier for you to fill in.

| Bag <br> No. | Code Number <br> on the bag and <br> in the CD | Medicine Name, Strength, <br> and Dosage Form | Contents of the Bag |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

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Kindly contribute to this research by confirming the authenticity of the attached samples (Form 1) and filling out the attached questionnaire (Form 2), and reply to me at your earliest convenience (preferably before January 15,2011 ) either by post, fax, or email.

Your contribution is valuable and I assure you that all the information will be confidential and for the scientific research. The names of your products will not be declared in the publication but, upon your agreement, I can mention the name of your company in the acknowledgement section. I also can send you the results of my analysis upon your request.

Thanking you in anticipation for your valuable response and cooperation.
With my best regards,

## Hani M. Khojah

## For: Kazuko Kimura, Professor, PhD

Department of Drug Management and Policy,
Faculty of Pharmacy,
Institute of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences,
Kanazawa University,
Kakuma-machi, Kanazawa-city,
Ishikawa Prefecture,
Japan 920-1192
Tel. \& Fax.: +81-76-264-6286

E-mail: dmphk@p.kanazawa-u.ac.jp

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## Authenticity Report

## (Form 1)

## <Company Name>

Kindly fill in and sign this report after examining the attached samples, indicating whether each sample is authentic or counterfeit (fill the corresponding circle in the table below).
If you find out that some samples are counterfeit, please inform me about the visual characteristics that distinguish the authentic product from the counterfeit (in the "Comments" column).
It will be more appreciated if you attach a detailed report of the authenticity check and if you reply on your company's letterhead paper.

| Bag <br> No.Code Number <br> on the bag and <br> in the CD | Medicine Name, <br> Strength, and <br> Dosage Form | Batch <br> Number | Manufac- <br> turing <br> Date | Expiry <br> Date | Authenticity <br> Check | Comments |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | $\bigcirc$ |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |  | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |  | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |  | $\bigcirc$ | $\bigcirc$ |  |

Name
Signature
Job Title
Tel.
Fax.
E-mail
Company Name
Company Address : $\qquad$
Company Tel. $\qquad$
Company Fax.
Company E-mail $\qquad$

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and Health Sciences

## Questionnaire <br> (Form 2)

## <Company Name>

Kindly fill in and sign this questionnaire. It will be more appreciated if you reply on your company's letterhead paper.

| Q1 | Is your company certified as applying good manufacturing practice (GMP)? Yes - No <br> Certifying authority: |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |

## Q2 $\quad$ How often does your company survey the market for the quality of its products (post-marketing)?

$\circ$ Annually $\circ$ Semiannually $\circ$ Quarterly $\circ$ Monthly

| Q3 | Have your company ever encountered a counterfeit product bearing its name? <br> - Yes |
| :--- | :--- |
| Q4 | If the answer to question 3 is "Yes" then in which country/countries did your company encounter the <br> counterfeit product? |

> | Q5 | $\begin{array}{l}\text { Have your company ever encountered a substandard or degraded product of its own in the market (eg, due to } \\ \text { poor storage by wholesalers or pharmacies)? }\end{array}$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| - Yes $\quad$ م No |  |

Q6 If the answer to question 5 is "Yes" then in which country/countries did your company encounter the substandard or degraded product?

| Q7 | If your company encounter a counterfeit product bearing its name, will it contact the authorities in the country where it is found? |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | - Yes $\quad$ No 0 Other: ........................................................ |


| Q8 | Assuming that the attached product samples are authentic, which pharmacopeia does your company refer to for quality control tests of this product before marketing? <br> - United States <br> - British <br> - European <br> - Japanese <br> - Other: |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Q9 | Please list the quality control tests and analyses used by your company for this product before marketing including description, characteristics, identification, appearance, dosage weight variation, uniformity of dosage units, dissolution, disintegration, active pharmaceutical ingredient content/potency, and stability. You can add fields to the table below or increase the size, if necessary. |  |  |
|  | Test/Analysis | Acc | ia |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

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Annex 1.4. Samples information


| No. | Pharmacy Type ( $1=$ Independent , C = Chain) | Pharmacy Code | Sample Code | Date of Purchase | Batch No. | No. of Purchased Packages | No. of Dosage Units/ Package | Brand Code | Strength (mg) | Dosage Form | Manufacturer Code | Manufacturing Country | Expiry Date |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 42 | I | SAR-10-PH-I-1080 | SAR-10-AM-C-038 | 28/09/2010 | 23 | 1 5 | 16 | E | 500 | Capsules | M3 | Egypt | 03 |
| 43 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0099 | SAR-10-AM-C-039 | 28/09/2010 | 31782 | 4 | 20 | A | 250 | Capsules | M1 | Saudi Arabia | 2013/10 |
| 44 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-1-0930 | SAR-10-AM-C-040 | 28/09/2010 | 2128 | 3 | 20 | M | 50 | Capsules | M8 | Jordan | 2012/05 |
| 45 |  | SAR-10-PM-I-0930 |  | 28/09/2010 | 2273 | 1 | 20 | M | 500 | Capsules | M $\overline{8}$ | Jordan | 2012/08 |
| 46 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-0258 | SAR-10-AM-C-041 | 28/09/2010 | 34405 | 4 | 20 | A | 250 | Capsules | M1 | Sadi Arab | 2014/01 |
| 47 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-1166 | SAR-10-AM-C-042 | 28/09/2010 | 044 F | 4 | 20 | D | 500 | Capsules | M2 | Jordan | 2013/12 |
| 48 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0816 | SAR-10-AM-C-043 | 28/09/2010 | 896 | 4 | 20 | K | 500 | Capsules | M6 | United Arab Emirate | 2013/07 |
| 49 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-1312 | SAR-10-AM-C-044 | 28/09/2010 | 6940 | 4 | 20 | 1 | 500 | Capsules | M5 | United Arab Emirates | 2014/04 |
| 50 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-0422 | SAR-10-AM-C-045 | 30/09/2010 | 617 E | 4 | 20 | c | 250 | Capsules | M2 | Jordan | 2013/09 |
| 51 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-0655 | SAR-10-AM-C-047 | 30/09/2010 | 1002220 | 1 | 16 | E | 500 | Capsules | M3 | Egypt | 2013/03 |
| 52 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-0655 | SAR-10-AM-C-047 | 30/09/2010 | 1002224 | 4 | 16 | E | 500 | Capsules | M3 | Egypt | 2013/03 |
| 53 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0270 | SAR-10-AM-C-048 | 30/09/2010 | 1000922 | 5 | 16 | E | 500 | Capsules | M3 | Egypt | 2013/01 |
| 54 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-0401 | SAR-10-AM-C-049 | 30/09/2010 | 08G01/97 | 4 | 20 | F | 500 | Capsules | M4 | - Netherla | 2011/07 |
| 55 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0615 | SAR-10-AM-C-050 | 30/09/2010 | 1002223 | 5 | 16 | E | 500 | Capsules | M3 | Egypt | 2013/03 |
| 56 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-1289 | SAR-10-AM-C-051 | 30/09/2010 | 6004 | 4 | 20 | - | 500 | Capsules | M9 | Saudi Arabia | 2013/01 |
| 57 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0213 | SAR-10-AM-C-052 | 30/09/2010 | 6004 | 4 | 20 | O | 500 | Capsules | M9 | Saudi Arabia | 2013/01 |
| 58 | I | SAR-10-PH-I-0026 | SAR-10-AM-C-053 | 30/09/2010 | 34730 | 3 | 20 | - | 500 | Capsules | M1 | Saudi Arabia | 2014/02 |
| 59 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-0104 | SAR-10-AM-C-054 | 30/09/2010 | 6772 | 4 | 20 | 1 | 500 | Capsules | M5 | United Arab Emira | 2012/10 |
| 60 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-1232 | SAR-10-AM-C-055 | 30/09/2010 | 31782 | 3 | 20 | A | 250 | Capsules | M1 | Saudi Arabia | 2013/10 |
| 61 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-0502 | SAR-10-AM-C-056 | 01/10/2010 | 925 | 4 | 20 | K | 500 | Capsules | M6 | United Àrab Émirates | 2014/02 |
| 62 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0645 | SAR-10-AM-C-057 | 01/10/2010 | 31782 | 2 | 20 | A | 250 | Capsules | M1 | Saudi Arabia | 2013/10 |
| 63 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0645 | SAR-10-AM-C-057 | 01/10/2010 | 31277 | 2 | 20 | A | 250 | Capsules | M1 | Saudi Arabia | 2013/10 |
| 64 | I | SAR-10-PH-I-0079 | SAR-10-AM-C-058 | 01/10/2010 | 954034 | 4 | 20 | P | 500 | Capsules | M10 | Jordan | 2012/05 |
| 65 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0676 | SAR-10-AM-C-059 | 01/10/2010 | 1002226 | 5 | 16 | E | 500 | Capsules | M3 | Egypt | 2013/03 |
| 66 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0459 | SAR-10-AM-C-060 | 01/10/2010 | 045 F | 4 | 20 | D | 500 | Capsules | M2 | Jordan | 2013/12 |
| 67 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-0993 | SAR-10-AM-C-061 | 01/10/2010 | 2362 | 4 | 20 | M | 500 | Capsules | M8 | Jordan | 2012/11 |
| 68 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-0718 | SAR-10-AM-C-062 | 01/10/2010 | 896 | 4 | 20 | K | 500 | Capsules | M6 | United Arab Emirates | 2013/07 |
| 69 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-1001 | SAR-10-AM-C-063 | 01/10/2010 | 1000922 | 5 | 16 | E | 500 | Capsules | M3 | Egypt | 2013/01 |
| 70 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-1303 | SAR-10-AM-C-064 | 01/10/2010 | 6004 |  | 20 | O | 500 | Capsules | M9 | Saudi Arabia | 2013/01 |
| 71 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-O230 | SAR-10-AM-C-066 | 02/10/2010 | 613 E | 4 | 20 | D | 50 | Capsules | M2 | Jordan | 2013/09 |
| 72 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-1025 | SAR-10-AM-C-067 | 02/10/2010 | 954034 | 4 | 20 | P | 500 | Capsules | M10 | Jordan | 2012/05 |
| 73 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-0074 | SAR-10-AM-C-068 | 02/10/2010 | 2006 | 4 | 20 | M | 500 | Capsules | M8 | Jordan | 2012/03 |
| 74 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-1060 | SAR-10-AM-C-069 | 02/10/2010 | 6782 | 4 | 20 | 1 | 500 | Capsules | M5 | United Arab Emirates | 2012/10 |
| 75 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-0696 | SAR-10-AM-C-070 | 02/10/2010 | 31782 | 4 | 20 | A | 250 | Capsules | M1 | Saudi Arabia | 2013/10 |
| 76 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-1295 | SAR-10-AM-C-072 | 02/10/2010 | 31277 | - | 20 | A | 250 | Capsules | M1 | Saudi Arabia | 2013/10 |
| 77 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0959 | SAR-10-AM-C-074 | 02/10/2010 | 954042 | 4 | 20 | P | 500 | Capsules | M10 | Jordan | 2012/06 |
| 78 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0939 | SAR-10-AM-T-009 | 22/09/2010 | AJ9306 | 1 | 20 | L | 500 | Tablets | M7 | Austria | 2012/03 |
| 79 | I | SAR-10-PH-I-0939 | SAR-10-AM-T-009 | 22/09/2010 | AJ9307 | 3 | 20 | L | 500 | Tablets | M7 | Austria | 2012/03 |
| 80 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0828 | SAR-10-AM-T-036 | 27/09/2010 | AJ9306 | 1 | 20 | L | 500 | Tablets | M7 | Austria | 2012/03 |
| 81 |  | SAR-10-PH-I-0828 | SAR-10-AM-T-O36 | 27/09/2010 | 158390 | 3 | 20 | L | 500 | Tablets | M7 | Austria | 2011/08 |
| 82 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-0406 | SAR-10-AM-T-046 | 30/09/2010 | 09619/56 | 4 | 20 | G | 500 | - Tablets | M ${ }^{4}$ | The ${ }^{-}$Netherlands | $2012 / 07$ |
|  |  | SAR-10-PH-C-0239 | SAR-10-AM-T-071 | 02/10/2010 | 08829/56 |  | 20 | G | 500 | Tablets | M4 | The Netherlands | 2011/05 |

## Annex 1.5. Summary of the sample analysis results



| No. | Sample Code | Unit 24 <br> Content (\% <br> of Label <br> Claim) | Unit 25 <br> Content (\% <br> of Label <br> Claim) | Unit 26 <br> Content (\% <br> of Label <br> Claim) | Unit 27Content (\%of LabelClaim) | Unit 28 <br> Content (\% <br> of Label <br> Claim) | Unit 29 Content (\% of Label Claim) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Unit } 30 \\ \text { Content } \% \\ \text { of Label } \\ \text { Claim) } \end{gathered}$ | Mean Content (\% of Label Claim) |  | Acceptance Value (AV \%) <br> Tolerance: AV $\leq 15 \%$ |  | Allowed Range for Deviation of Each Dosage Unit |  |  |  | First Stage | Second Stage | Final Judgment |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | First Stage | Second Stage |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | First Stage | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Second } \\ & \text { Stage } \end{aligned}$ |  |  | First Stage | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Second } \\ & \text { Stage } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { Low SIde } \\ \text { M(1-0.01L2) } \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { High Side } \\ \text { M(1+0.01L2) } \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |  |  | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { Low SIde } \\ \text { M(1-0.01L2) } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { High Side } \\ \text { M( } 1+0.0122) \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| 1 | SAR-10-AM-C-001 | No Nee | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Nee | Vo Nee | No Need | 97.74 | No Need | 3.26 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 2 | SAR-10-AM-C-002 | No Ne | No Nee | No Nee | No Need | No Ne | Ne | 10 Need | 96.42 | Vo Nee | 7.27 | Vol | 73.88 | 123.13 | № Need | NoNeed | Passed | $\bigcirc$ Nee | Passed First Stage |
| 3 | SAR-10-AM-C-003 | No | NoNe | - | No Nee | Need | No Need | Vo Need | 95.44 | 10 | 14.78 | No Ne | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed |  | Passed First Stage |
| 4 | SAR-10-AM-C-003 | 98.43 | 96.30 | 97.24 | 97.79 | 92.17 | 96.25 | 94.05 | 92.86 | 95.39 | 16.43 | 10.22 | 73.88 | 123.13 | 73.88 | 123.13 | Failed AV | Passed | Passed Second Stage |
| 5 | SAR-10-AM-C-004 | 105.59 | 98.19 | 101.40 | 95.09 | 96.64 | 91.55 | 99.30 | 100.57 | 100.30 | 19.50 | 11.15 | 75.43 | 125.71 | 75.22 | 125.37 | Failed AV | Passed | Passed Second Stage |
| 6 | SAR-10-AM-C-005 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 100.49 | No Need | 3.36 | No Need | 75.37 | 125.61 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| -7 | SAR-10-AM-C-006 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Nee | one | No Nee | PN | 101.36 | ONee | 6.31 | 1 N Ne | 76.02 | 126.70 | № Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 8 | SAR-10-AM-C-007 | No Ne | No. Need | No Nee | NoNee | Noe | - Nee | Ne | 96.88 | VoNee | 4.50 | Io Ne | 73.88 | 123.13 | № Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 9 | SAR-10-AM-C-008 | 90.36 | 96.43 | 87.68 | 88.81 | 85.01 | 87.18 | 90.15 | 86.64 | 88.61 | 19.25 | 17.50 | 73.88 | 123.13 | 73.88 | 123.13 | Failed AV | Failed AV | Failed Second Stage AV |
| 10 | SAR-10-AM-C-010 | No Nee | No Ne | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 91.11 | No Need | 14.20 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 11 | SAR-10-AM-C-011 | No Nee | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 97.94 | No Need | 5.90 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 12 | SAR-10-AM-C-012 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Nee | 1 Ne | Vo Need | 104.23 | No Need | 7.75 | 10 Nee | 76.13 | 126.88 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| -13 | SAR-10-AM-C-012 | 99.68 | 99.95 | 95.62 | 97.84 | 97.42 | 94.85 | 99.10 | 101.15 | 100.39 | 18.89 | 9.75 | 75.86 | 126.44 | 75.29 | 125.49 | Failed AV | Passed | Passed Second Stage |
| 14 | SAR-10-AM-C-013 | No Nee | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 96.40 | No Need | 5.13 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 15 | SAR-10-AM-C-014 | No Nee | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 94.74 | No Need | 7.35 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | № Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 16 | SAR-10-AM-C-015 | No Nee | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 94.30 | No Need | 7.22 | No Nee | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 17 | SAR-10-AM-C-016 | No N | Vo Nee | No Need | No Nee | No Ne | No Need | No Nee | 98.44 | 10 N | 2.72 | lo Ne | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Ne | Passed | No Nee | Passed First Stage |
| 18 | SAR-10-AM-C-017 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Nee | No Nee | No Need | 97.44 | No Nee | 6.09 | No Nee | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| -19 | SAR-10-AM-C-017 | No Nee | No Need | No Need | NoNeed | Nee | No Need | No, Need | 97.44 | Io Nee | 6.11 | No Nee | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 20 | SAR-10-AM-C-018 | 101.24 | 92.62 | 94.25 | 94.83 | 94.28 | 88.40 | 90.53 | 88.71 | 90.66 | 16.52 | 15.08 | 73.88 | 123.13 | 73.88 | 123.13 | Failed AV | Failed AV | Failed Second Stage AV |
| 21 | SAR-10-AM-C-019 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 101.06 | No Need | 2.42 | No Need | 75.80 | 126.33 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 22 | SAR-10-AM-C-019 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Nee | No Need | Vo Need | 95.96 | Vo Need | 5.57 | No Nee | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| -23 | SAR-10-AM-C-020 | 87.21 | 87.40 | 80.55 | 87.94 | 84.76 | 75.54 | 81.51 | 89.85 | 86.82 | 17.30 | 20.96 | 73.88 | 123.13 | 73.88 | 123.13 | Failed AV | Failed AV | Failed Second Stage AV |
| -24 | SAR-10-AM-C-021 | 86.98 | 85.30 | 91.49 | 87.38 | 85.06 | 82.78 | 85.14 | 87.01 | 87.48 | 19.14 | 16.39 | 73.88 | 123.13 | 73.88 | 123.13 | Failed AV | Failed AV | Failed Second Stage AV |
| 25 | SAR-10-AM-C-022 | - | No Nee | No | No, | No Ne | No Nee | No Need | 98.25 | No Need | 4.27 | No Nee | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 26 | SAR-10-AM-C-023 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 97.33 | No Need | 4.12 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 27 | SAR-10-AM-C-024 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Nee | No Nee | No Nee | No Nee | 98.92 | No Nee | 5.08 | No Nee | 74.19 | 123.65 | No Need | № Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 28 | SAR-10-AM-C-025 | No Nee | No- N | No Nee | NoN | - | - | NoN | 94.14 | NoN | 10.83 | No Ne | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No- | Passed | N- | Passed First Stage |
| -29 | SAR-10-AM-C-026 | № Nee | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | NoNee | No Need | 100.93 | No Nee | 10.25 | Vo Nee | 75.70 | 126.16 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| ${ }_{1}^{1} 30$ | SAR-10-AM-C-027 | + No Need | - No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 100.30 | No Need | 3.25 | No Need | 75.22 | 125.37 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 1 | SAR-10-AM-C-027 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need ! | No Need | No Need | No Need | 98.35 | No Need | 5.87 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| - 32 | SAR-10-AM-C-028 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 96.60 | No Need | 5.29 | No Nee | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 「 33 | SAR-10-AM-C-028 |  | - - - ${ }^{\text {Nee }}$ | -- |  |  |  |  | 92.60 |  | 14.22 |  | 73.88 | 123.13 | №- - Need | No- ${ }^{\text {Need }}$ | Passed | No-- | Passed First Stage |
| ${ }_{1}^{1-34}$ | SAR-10-AMC-029 | 100.37 | 100.05 | 97.25 | 91.46 | 103.47 | 94.77 | 96.87 | 93.29 | 95.68 | 15.98 | 10.69 | 73.88 | 123.13 | 73.88 | 123.13 | Failed AV | Passed | Passed Second Stage |
| -35 | SAR-10-AM-C-030 | ${ }^{+}$- No Need | 1 - No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 98.27 | No Need | 9.03 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need ${ }^{+}$ | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 136 | SAR-10-AM-C-031 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need ! | No Need | No Need ! | No Need | 99.07 | No Need ! | 3.84 | No Need | 74.30 | 123.84 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 37 | SAR-10-AM-C-032 | 103.70 | 101.94 | 104.22 | 101.93 | 102.59 | 103.35 | 106.51 | 97.45 | 100.62 | 15.58 | 9.75 | 73.88 | 123.13 | 75.46 | 125.77 | Failed AV | Passed | Passed Second Stage |
| 38 | SAR-10-AM-C-033 | No Need | No Need | No Need | NoNeed! | No Need | No Need | No Need | 93.96 | No Need | 10.80 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| -39 | SAR-10-AM-C-034 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | NoNeed | No Need | No Need | 93.72 | No Need | 10.13 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need 1 | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 140 | SAR-10-AM-C-035 | No Need | No Need | No Need ! | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 95.82 | No Need | 5.36 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | № Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 1.41 | SAR-10-AM-C-037 | 93.11 | 91.07 | 92.67 | 93.56 | 93.41 | 90.05 | 90.79 | 97.22 | 94.05 | 17.24 | 13.74 | 73.88 | 123.13 | 73.88 | 123.13 | Failed AV | Passed | Passed Second Stage |



| No. | Sample Code | Unit 24 <br> Content (\% <br> of Label <br> Claim) | Unit 25 <br> Content (\% <br> of Label <br> Claim) | Unit 26 <br> Content (\% <br> of Label <br> Claim) | Unit 27 <br> Content (\% <br> of Label <br> Claim) | Unit 28 <br> Content (\% <br> of Label <br> Claim) | Unit 29 <br> Content (\% <br> of Label <br> Claim) | Unit 30 <br> Content (\% <br> of Label <br> Claim) | Mean Content (\% of Label Claim) |  | Acceptance Value (AV \%) <br> Tolerance: AV $\leq 15 \%$ |  | Allowed Range for Deviation of Each Dosage Unit |  |  |  | First Stage | Second Stage | Final Judgment |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | First Stage | Second Stage |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | First Stage | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { Second } \\ \text { Stage } \end{gathered}$ |  |  | First Stage | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { Second } \\ \text { Stage } \end{gathered}$ | Low SIde <br> M(1-0.0112) | High Side <br> M( $1+0.01 \mathrm{~L} 2)$ |  |  |  | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { Low SIde } \\ \text { M(1-0.01L2) } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c\|} \hline \text { High Side } \\ \text { M(1+0.01L2) } \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| 42 | SAR-10-AM-C-038 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 99.98 | No Need | 10.75 | No Need | 74.98 | 124.97 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 43 | SAR-10-AM-C-039 | No Need | No | No | No Need | No Ne | ON | NoNe | 96.16 | No | 5.35 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 44 | SAR-10-AM -C-040 | No Nee | No Ne | No- ${ }^{-1}$ | No Nee | -- | No Need | No- ${ }^{\text {Need }}$ | 98.36 | No.- Need | 5.40 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No- Noed | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 45 | SAR-10-AM-C-040 | No Ned | No Nee | No Nee | No Need | No Nee | No Nee | No Need | 93.25 | No Need | 8.89 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | NoN | No Nee | Passed | $\bigcirc \mathrm{N}$ | Passed First tage |
| 46 | SAR-10-AMM-C-041 | No | No- Nee | No- Ne | No- N - | - No Ne | - ${ }^{-1}$ Nee | - ${ }^{-}$Nee | 95.22 | -- No - | 6.85 | No Noed | 73.88 | 123.13 | No- ${ }^{-}$ | No Ne | Passed | No ${ }^{-}$ | Passed First Stage |
| 47 | SAR-10-AM-C-042 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | , No Need | No Need | No Need | 98.82 | No Need | 6.25 | No Need | 74.12 | 123.53 | No Ne | No N | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 48 | SAR-10-AM-C-043 | 1 No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 97.32 | No Need | 8.13 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
|  | SAR-10-AM-C-044 | № Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Ne | No Nee | No Nee | 103.19 | No Need | 8.10 | No Need | 76.13 | 126.88 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 50 | SAR-10-AM-C-045 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 80.68 | No Need | 27.67 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | ailed Deviation | No Need | Failed First Stage Deviation R |
| 51 | SAR-10-AM-C-047 | No Nee | No Need | No Nee | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 99.64 | No Nee | 10.67 | No Need | 74.73 | 124.55 | No Need | No N | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 52 | SAR-10-AM-C-047 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 98.91 | No Need | 14.98 | No Need | 74.18 | 123.63 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 53 | SAR-10-AM-C-048 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Nee | No Nee | 98.26 | No Need | 5.94 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
|  | SAR-10-AM-C-049 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | Vo Ne | vo | No Need | 92.71 | No Nee | 12.29 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 5 | SAR-10-AM-C-050 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 94.35 | No Need | 13.40 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 56 | SAR-10-AM-C-051 | No Need, | No Need! | No Need | No Need ! | No Need | No Need | No Need | 95.38 | No Need | 8.46 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 57 | SAR-10-AM-C-052 | 93.23 | 97.19 | 92.32 | 91.62 | 92.54 | 90.69 | 85.61 | 81.39 | 84.43 | 27.63 | 27.06 | 73.88 | 123.13 | 73.88 | 123.13 | Failed AV | ailed Deviation Ra | ailed Second Stage Deviation Ran |
|  | SAR-10-AM-C-053 | 94.29 | 94.91 | 96.04 | 95.02 | 95.26 | 95.02 | 97.13 | 85.96 | 92.36 | 16.96 | 15.66 | 73.88 | 123.13 | 73.88 | 123.13 | Failed AV | Failed AV | Failed Second Stage AV |
|  | SAR-10-AM -C-054 | No Need | No Need | No. Need | No Nee | O1 | No, | NoN | 98.80 | No Nee | 6.88 | No Need | 74.10 | 123.49 | 1-No Need | No.Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 6 | SAR-10-AM-C-055 | No Need | No | No | No | No Nee | No Need | No, | 90.57 | No Nee | 14.56 | No | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Nee | No Need | Passed | Need | Passed First Stage |
| -61 | SAR-10-AM -C-056 | No- Nee | No- Ne - | No.- Need | No- Need | No- Need | No Need | No Need | 100.49 | No Need | 4.00 | No Need | 75.37 | 125.62 | -- N Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 162 | SAR-10-AM-C-057 | No Ne | No Nee | No Nee | No Nee | No Ne | No Nee | No Nee | 95.22 | No Nee | 7.16 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Ne | No Ne | Passed | 0 N | Passed First Stage |
|  | SAR-10-AM-C-057 | - | No Nee | No Nee | No ${ }^{\text {Neee }}$ | - ${ }^{-1}$ | - No - ${ }^{\text {Nee }}$ | No | 93.53 | No - | 8.33 | No Nee | 73.88 | 123.13 | Ne | No | Passed | No Ne | Passed First Stage |
|  | SAR-10-AM-C-058 | 95.96 | 90.26 | 99.82 | 101.07 | 99.70 | 90.97 | 88.75 | 86.91 | 91.89 | 16.75 | 17.24 | 73.88 | 123.13 | 73.88 | 123.13 | Failed AV | Failed AV | Faild Second Stage AV |
|  | SAR-10-AM -C-059 |  | No Need | No Ne | NoNee | No Nee |  | No-Nee | 100.01 | No Nee | 12.17 | No | 75.01 | 125.01 | NoNee | No Need | Passed | No Ne | Passed First Stage |
| 66 | SAR-10-AM-C-060 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 101.90 | No Need | 5.93 | No Need | 76.13 | 126.88 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 67 | SAR-10-AM-C-061 | No Nee | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 101.05 | No Need | 4.41 | No Need | 75.79 | 126.32 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 68 | SAR-10-AM-C-062 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Nee | No Need | 96.30 | No Need | 5.94 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
|  | SAR-10-AM-C-063 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No N | No Nee | No Need | 101.17 | No Need | 8.76 | No Ne | 75.88 | 126.46 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 70 | SAR-10-AM-C-064 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | Vo Need | No Need | No Need | 93.57 | No Need | 13.21 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 71 | SAR-10-AM-C-066 | 85.92 | 94.17 | 90.82 | 87.06 | 86.37 | 82.00 | 85.14 | 85.86 | 86.81 | 18.83 | 19.92 | 73.88 | 123.13 | 73.88 | 123.13 | Failed AV | Failed AV | Failed Second Stage AV |
| 72 | SAR-10-AM-C-067 | No Nee | No Nee | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 95.41 | No Need | 8.26 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Nee | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| - | SAR-10-AM-C-068 | -- | --- |  | No Nee | NoNe | No Nee | No Nee | 100.48 | No Nee | 3.54 | No Ne | 75.36 | 125.60 |  | No Need | Passed | Ne | Passed First Stage |
| 17 | SAR-10-AMM-C-069 | No Nee | No Noed | No- | No- ${ }^{\text {Need }}$ | No- ${ }^{\text {Nee }}$ | - N Need | - ${ }^{\text {No Need }}$ | 100.55 | No- ${ }^{\text {Need }}$ | 5.98 | No Nee | 75.41 | 125.69 | No- ${ }^{\text {Need }}$ | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| -75 | SAR-10-AM-C-070 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Nee | No Need | No Need | 95.07 | No Need | 6.16 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
|  | SAR-10-AMM-C-072 | - | Noed | No Nee | Norved | Nove | No, | Norve | 98.11 | No-Need | 3.25 | No- ${ }^{\text {Need }}$ | 73.88 | 123.13 | - ${ }^{-1-}$ Need | NoNe | Passed | No- Need | Passed First Stage |
| - 77 | SAR-10-AM-C-074 | No Nee | NoNeed | No Need | NoNeed | No Need | No Need | No Need | 95.55 | No Need | 6.09 | № Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Nee | No Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
| 78 | SAR-10-AM-T-009 | - | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Nee | No Need | No Need | 98.65 | No Ned | 1.87 | No Ne | 73.99 | 123.32 | No Need | No Ne | Passed | Nor | Passed First Stage |
| 79 | SAR-10-AM-T-009 | No Nee | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 98.23 | No Need | 2.99 | № Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | № Need | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
|  | SAR-10-AM-T-036 | - | NoNee | NoNeed | NoN |  |  |  | 98.96 | Nove | 2.24 | Novee | 74.22 | 123.70 | No Need | NoNeed | Passed | No Need | Passed First Stage |
|  | SAR-10-AM-T-036 | No Nee | Vo Need | - | -- |  | -- | --- | 98.25 | NoNee | 3.05 | No Nee | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Ne | NoNe | Passed | No Ne | Passed First Stage |
|  | SAR-10-AM-T-046 | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need | 100.59 | No Need | 4.47 | No Need | 75.44 | 125.74 | No Need | No Ne | Passed | NoNe | Passed First Stage |
| 18 | SAR-10-AM-T-071 | No Nee | No Need | No Need | No Need | No Need! | No Need! | No Need | 95.82 | No Need | 5.36 | No Need | 73.88 | 123.13 | No Need | No Need | Passed | No Ne | Passed First Stage |

Annex 1.6. Pharmacies information


| No. | Pharmacy <br> Type ( $1=$ Independent , C = Chain) | Pharmacy Code | Sample Code | District | Neatness | Sunlight on medicines | Airconditioning | Availability of the "No RxMedicines w/o Rx" Sign | Seller Nationality | Seller Qualification | Request of Rx | Giving Instructions |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 42 | - 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-1080 | SAR-10-AM-C-038 | Al-Naseem (West) | Good | Away | Excellent | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 43 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0099 | SAR-10-AM-C-039 | Al-Yamaama | Excellent | Away | Excellent : | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 44 | 1-1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0930 | SAR-10-AM-C-040 | New Manfouha | Excellent | Away | Excellent | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 45 | I | SAR-10-PH-I-0930 | SAR-10-AM-C-040 | New Manfouha | Excellent | Away | Excellent | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 46 | - - - | SAR-10-PH-C-0258 | SAR-10-AM-C-041 | New Manfouha | Good | Āway | Poor | Ye | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 47 | c | SAR-10-PH-C-1166 | SAR-10-AM-C-042 | New Manfouha | Excellent | Away | Excellent | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 48 | T | SAR-10-PH-I-0816 | SAR-10-AM-C-043 | Manfouha | Excellent | Away | Excellent | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 49 | C | SAR-10-PH-C-1312 | SAR-10-AM-C-044 | New Manfouha | Good | Away | Excellent | No | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 50 | C | SAR-10-PH-C-0422 | SAR-10-AM-C-045 | Al-Rabwa | Excellent | Away | Excellent | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 51 | C | SAR-10-PH-C-0655 | SAR-10-AM-C-047 | Al-Rabwa | Excellent | Away | Excellent | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 52 | + - - - C | SAR-10-PH-C-0655 | SAR-10-AM-C-047 | Al-Rabwa | Excellent | Away | Excellent | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 53 | +-1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0270 | SAR-10-AM-C-048 | Al-Malazz | Good | Away | Good | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 54 | C | SAR-10-PH-C-0401 | SAR-10-AM-C-049 | Al-Malazz | Good | Away | Good | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 55 | - 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0615 | SAR-10-AM-C-050 | Al-Sulaymaniyya | Excellent | Away | Excellent | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 56 | C | SAR-10-PH-C-1289 | SAR-10-AM-C-051 | Al-Sulaymaniyga | Excellent | Away | Excellent | Yes | Yemen | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 57 | - | SAR-10-PH-I-0213 | SAR-10-AM-C-052 | Al-Sulaymaniyya | Excellent | Āway | Excellent | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 58 | 1-1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0026 | SAR-10-AM-C-053 | Al-Sulaymaniy | Good | Away | Good | No | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 59 | - | SAR-10-PH-C-0104 | SAR-10-AM-C-054 | Al-Sulaymaniyya | Good | Away | Excellent | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No |  |
| 60 | - C | SAR-10-PH-C-1232 | SAR-10-AM-C-055 | Al-Sulaymaniyya | Good | Away | Excellent | No | Canadian | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 61 | C | SAR-10-PH-C-0502 | SAR-10-AM-C-056 | Al-Nasiriyya | Excellent | Away | Excellent | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 62 | 1--1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0645 | SAR-10-AM-C-057 | Al-Suwaidi | Good | Away | Excellent | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 63 | + 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0645 | SAR-10-AM-C-057 | Al-Suwaidi | Good | Away | Excellent | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 64 | 1-1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0079 | SAR-10-AM-C-058 | Dhahrat Al-Badi'ah | Good | Away | Good | No | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 65 |  | SAR-10-PH-I-0676 | SAR-10-AM-C-059 | Al-Uraijaa (Center) | Good | Away | Good | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist |  | No |
| 66 | 1--1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0459 | SAR-10-AM-C-060 | All-Üraijaa (Center) | Good | Away | Good | Yes | Saudi | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 67 | C | SAR-10-PH-C-0993 | SAR-10-AM-C-061 | Al-Uraijaa (West) | Excellent | Away | Excellent | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 68 | C | SAR-10-PH-C-0718 | SAR-10-AM-C-062 | Al-Uraijaa (Center) | Good | Āway | Good | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 69 | - | SAR-10-PH-I-1001 | SAR-10-AM-C-063 | Tuwaiq | Good | Away | Good | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 70 | C | SAR-10-PH-C-1303 | SAR-10-AM-C-064 | Al-Uraijaa (West) | Good | Away | Excellent | No | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 71 | - 1 | SAR-10-PH-1-0230 | SAR-10-AM-C-066 | Al-Badi'ah | Good | Away | Good | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 72 | '-1 | SAR-10-PH-I-1025 | SAR-10-AM-C-067 | Um Saleem | Good | Away | Good | No | India | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 73 | C | SAR-10-PH-C-0074 | SAR'-10-AM-C-068 | Úm Saleem | Good | Āway | Good | Yes | India | Phärmacist | No | No |
| 74 | C | SAR-10-PH-C-1060 | SAR-10-AM-C-069 | Al-Quds | Excellent | Away | Excellent | No | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 75 | C | SAR-10-PH-C-0696 | SAR-10-AM-C-070 | Badr | Good | Away | Excellent | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 76 | C | SAR-10-PH-C-1295 | SAR-10-AM-C-072 | Al-Shifaa | Excellent | Away | Excellent | Yes | Yemen | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 77 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0959 | SAR-10-AM-C-074 | Al-Shumaisi | Good | Away | Poor | Yes | India | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 78 | 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0939 | SAR-10-AM-T-009 | Al-Natheem | Excellent | Away | Excellent | No | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
|  | - - - 1 | SAR-10-PH-I-0939 | SAR-10-AM-T-009 | Al-Natheem | Excellent | Away | Excellent | No | Egypt | Pharmacist | No |  |
| 80 | - | SAR-10-PH-I-0828 | SAR-10-AM-T-036 | Al-Ämal | Good | Away | Excellent | No | India | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 81 |  | SAR-10-PH-I-0828 | SAR-10-AM-T-036 | Al-Amal | Good | Away | Excellent | No | India | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 82 | C | SAR-10-PH-C-0406 | SAR-10-AM-T-046 | Al-Rawabi | Excellent | Away | Excellent | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |
| 83 | : c | SAR-10-PH-C-0239 | SAR-10-AM-T-071 | Al-Shifaa | Excellent | Away | Excellent | Yes | Egypt | Pharmacist | No | No |

## Chapter 2

Adherence of Community Pharmacies in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to Optimal Conditions for Keeping and Selling Good-Quality Medicines

## Background

The quality of medicine is a global issue due to the ever increasing prevalence of counterfeit medicines worldwide. ${ }^{[1,2]}$ Substandard medicines produced by legitimate manufacturers represent another threat as they may not contain the correct amount of active ingredients or may have manufacturing defects that alter their efficacy or make them dangerous for use. ${ }^{[3,4]}$ On the other hand, even good quality medicines could be risky if they degrade due to poor storage or distribution conditions. ${ }^{[5,6]}$

This study is based on the results of the previous study (Chapter 1 ), which adopted the lot quality assurance sampling (LQAS) as a surveying technique to investigate the community pharmacies in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, regarding the quality of medicines they sell. ${ }^{[7]}$ It was conducted during a very hot season and amoxicillin was selected as an indicator of the quality of medicines in those pharmacies. The study reported substandard amoxicillin products in $13 \%$ of the randomly selected pharmacies. Although all samples were found to be authentic and the amount of the active ingredient was not dramatically low, it was below the lower limit of $90.0 \%$ according to the United States Pharmacopeia (USP), with the lowest amount being 80.7\%. Manufacturing defects could not be ruled out but it was also suggested that degradation may have occurred to some samples due to poor storage or distribution conditions. That was supported by the finding that certain samples passed the quality test while other samples from the same batch, but purchased from other pharmacies, failed it.

Most medicines that can be kept on shelves must not be exposed to temperatures exceeding $25{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. Excessive heat plays a major role in the degradation of various
medicines ${ }^{[8,9]}$ Similarly, temperature-controlled medicines must be handled carefully to avoid decomposition or degradation caused by excessive heat. ${ }^{[10]}$

The operational regulations of the system for private pharmaceutical facilities and products in Saudi Arabia contain several requirements for good storage and distribution of medicines. ${ }^{[11]}$ According to this system, community pharmacies must have good air-conditioning systems that keep the temperature at $\leq 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ and a thermometer for monitoring the temperature. Pharmacies must also have refrigerators with thermometers, and medicines must be kept away from sunlight. Floors and paints must be of materials that can be easily washed and cleaned. In addition, drug storage facilities must be equipped with automatic temperature recording systems that keep records for at least one year.

However, the criteria and quality of inspection and monitoring of the community pharmacies by the regulatory authorities may not be efficient. For example, one can easily buy prescription-only medicines, such as antibiotics, without a prescription despite the strict regulations. ${ }^{[7,12]}$

## Objectives

This study explored the extent to which community pharmacies in Riyadh complied with the local regulations for keeping medicines until they are sold. It also explored the opinions of community pharmacists about the quality of medicines and tested their knowledge about the regulations.

This study was approved by the Ethical Committee of Kanazawa University and the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA).

## Selection of Pharmacies

A list of all registered community pharmacies in Riyadh was obtained from the Saudi Ministry of Health (MOH) in August 2012 (1531 pharmacies). The calculated sample size of pharmacies was 181 according to the following formula:

$$
n=z^{2} N(1-p) /\left(z^{2} p(1-p)+\xi^{2} p^{2}(N-1)\right)
$$

where $n$ is the required sample size; z is the reliability coefficient (equals1.96 at $95 \%$ confidence level); $N$ is the population size; $p$ is the probability of favorable outcome (set as 0.5 ); and $\xi$ is set as 0.2 for the purpose of this study.

After all pharmacies were coded, the list was scrambled and 181+45 pharmacies were randomly selected from the list with MS Excel 2010 (Microsoft Co., USA). The additional 45 pharmacies were used as a reserve for an estimated dropout rate of $25 \%$ that may occur when a pharmacy is closed on the second visit, the pharmacy is out of business, or the pharmacy refuses to cooperate in the survey. The survey included 68 districts out of the 114 districts of Riyadh. The surveyed districts are sown in Annexes 2.1 and 2.2

## Study Materials

The survey was conducted using a structured interview with the pharmacist in charge in each pharmacy, using three forms that were filled in by the interviewers. The
first form was a questionnaire while the second and third forms were used for inspection and observation purposes, respectively (Annexes 2.3-2.5).

Validity of the method was assessed on a sample of 33 pharmacies, not included in the study sample, and the Pearson correlation coefficient for internal reliability was 0.82 .

## The Interviewers

Thirty-four, fourth-year pharmacy students from King Saud University in Riyadh conducted the interviews between November 2 and November 23, 2012, after having attended a workshop followed by field training for a period of one week accompanied by the investigator. In-field follow-up and necessary support were provided by the investigator and one of the co-investigators. The training and survey schedule can be found in Annex 2.6.

The workshop started with an explanation of the survey objectives and a detailed presentation of the interview forms. It was followed by a discussion, where student questions were answered. The necessary communication skills were reviewed in brief since all students had already passed a course related to those skills.

The workshop was followed by a rehearsal of the interview, where all students played the role of the interviewer while the investigator played the role of the pharmacist. Notes were taken about each conversation and each student with a deficiency was offered more guidance and another rehearsal.

The final sample included 139 chain and 42 independent pharmacies, where a chain pharmacy belongs to a group of more than 3 pharmacies. ${ }^{[13]}$ Twenty-one pharmacies were replaced because they were either closed on the second visit, out of business, or non-cooperative. The pharmacists in charge were all non-Saudi males and the summary of their background characteristics is shown in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1. Background characteristics of pharmacists.

| Characteristics ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | Value |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Mean (years) | Range |
| Age | 32 | 23-55 |
| Total experience in community pharmacies | 8.2 | 1-28 |
| Experience in community pharmacies in Saudi Arabia | 5.3 | 0.25-25 |
|  | Frequency $(n=181)$ | \% |
| Qualification |  |  |
| B.Sc | 174 | 96.1 |
| Pharm.D | 4 | 2.2 |
| M.Sc | 2 | 1.1 |
| Ph.D | 1 | 0.6 |
| Nationality |  |  |
| Egypt | 150 | 82.9 |
| Yemen | 7 | 3.8 |
| Jordan | 6 | 3.3 |
| India | 6 | 3.3 |
| Sudan | 5 | 2.8 |
| Syria | 3 | 1.7 |
| Palestine | 3 | 1.7 |
| Pakistan | 1 | 0.5 |
| Position |  |  |
| Manager | 140 | 77.4 |
| Staff | 41 | 22.6 |

About $15 \%$ of the pharmacists said that they had not been informed about the system of community pharmacy practice in Saudi Arabia. Surprisingly, a significant percentage of pharmacists who knew the system gave wrong answers to simple questions related to the system. Table 2.2 summarizes the pharmacists' answers to such questions.

All pharmacists reported that they always receive the supply of medicines either directly from an official distributor or from a central store that belongs to the owner, or both. However, one independent pharmacy reported purchasing some medicines from a subagent. Nearly $56 \%$ of the pharmacists reported that they sometimes rejected some supplies of medicines because the temperature of the shipments may have exceeded $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ or because the packaging of the medicines was not intact upon receipt. When asked about the official distributors' facilities, $16 \%$ of the pharmacists said that the distributors' stores were substandard and $22 \%$ believed that the vehicles that were delivering the supply to the pharmacies were not suitable. In addition, $8 \%$ reported that they found some counterfeit products in their pharmacies and $46 \%$ reported that they had sometimes been contacted by illegal sellers offering known medicine brands at low prices. A significant percentage of the pharmacists reported that they found physicochemical changes in some of the medicines in their pharmacies; $16 \%$ noticed discoloration of some liquid medicines while $18.8 \%$ noticed wetting or solidification of powdered medicines. Sixty-seven percent of the pharmacists reported that they received complaints from their clients about subtherapeutic effects of some medicines. Only 64\% said that they received memos from the drug regulatory authorities warning them of certain counterfeit or substandard products. Table 2.3 summarizes the pharmacists'

Table 2.2. Pharmacist knowledge about the local regulations of community pharmacy practice.

| Aspects | Frequency $n=181$ (\%) |
| :---: | :---: |
| Were you informed about the community pharmacy regulations in Saudi Arabia? |  |
| Yes | 153 (84.5) |
| No | 28 (15.4) |
| Are you requested to complete a certain number of continuing education hours every year? |  |
| Yes, 60 hours ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | 49 (27.0) |
| Yes, incorrect number of hours | 81 (44.8) |
| Not required | 32 (17.7) |
| Don't know | 19 (10.5) |
| Is it allowed to give free samples of over-the-counter medicines to clients? |  |
| Yes | 21 (11.6) |
| $\mathrm{No}^{\text {a }}$ | 155 (85.6) |
| Unsure | 5 (2.8) |
| Except antibiotics, is it allowed to sell medicines by individual strips? |  |
| Yes ${ }^{\text {a }}$ | 95 (52.4) |
| No | 81 (44.8) |
| Unsure | 5 (2.8) |
| Correct answers about some medicines that can be sold without a prescription |  |
| Mild cough preparations | 157 (86.7) |
| Topical disinfectants | 143 (79.0) |
| Multivitamins | 158 (87.3) |
| Topical burn preparations | 139 (76.8) |
| Mild analgesics | 167 (92.3) |
| Correct answers about some medicines that cannot be sold without a prescription |  |
| Antihypertensive drugs | 172 (95.0) |
| Mild oral antibiotics | 138 (76.2) |
| Strong oral antibiotics | 169 (93.4) |
| Antidiabetic drugs | 166 (91.7) |
| a. The correct answer. |  |

Table 2.3. Pharmacists' opinions on the adherence of their pharmacies and distributors to the regulations.

| Aspects | Frequency $n=181 \text { (\%) }$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| How often is the pharmacy temperature kept at $\leq 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ during working hours in hot seasons? |  |
| 100\% | 146 (80.7) |
| 91-99\% | 12 (6.6) |
| 81-90\% | 12 (6.6) |
| $\leq 80 \%$ | 9 (5.0) |
| Unsure | 2 (1.1) |
| How often is the pharmacy temperature kept at $\leq 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ after working hours in hot seasons? |  |
| 100\% | 119 (65.7) |
| 91-99\% | 15 (8.3) |
| 81-90\% | 21 (11.6) |
| $\leq 80 \%$ | 19 (10.5) |
| Unsure | 7 (3.9) |
| How often is the supply delivered to the pharmacy at a temperature of $\leq 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in hot seasons? |  |
| 100\% | 102 (56.3) |
| 91-99\% | 5 (2.8) |
| 81-90\% | 11 (6.1) |
| $\leq 80 \%$ | 21 (11.6) |
| Unsure | 42 (23.2) |
| How often is the supply received in intact packaging? |  |
| 100\% | 109 (60.2) |
| 91-99\% | 41 (22.7) |
| 81-90\% | 14 (7.7) |
| $\leq 80 \%$ | 8 (4.4) |
| Unsure | 9 (5.0) |
| To what extent do you believe that the medicines in this pharmacy contain the correct amount of active ingredients? |  |
| 100\% | 71 (39.2) |
| 91-99\% | 20 (11.1) |
| 81-90\% | 36 (19.9) |
| $\leq 80 \%$ | 29 (16.0) |
| Unsure | 25 (13.8) |
| To what extent do you believe that Riyadh pharmacies adhere to optimal storage conditions? |  |
| 100\% | 45 (24.8) |
| 91-99\% | 21 (11.6) |
| 81-90\% | 38 (21.0) |
| $\leq 80 \%$ | 46 (25.4) |
| Unsure | 31 (17.2) |
| How often is the pharmacy inspected by the pharmacy regulatory authorities? |  |
| Every 1-6 months | 129 (71.3) |
| Every 7-12 months | 19 (10.5) |
| Every 1-2 years | 3 (1.6) |
| Unsure | 30 (16.6) |
| The pharmacist noticed broken capsules or tablets inside packaged products in the pharmacy | 53 (29.3) |
| The pharmacist noticed discoloration of some liquid medicines in the pharmacy | 29 (16.0) |
| The pharmacist noticed wetting or solidification of powdered medicines in the pharmacy | 34 (18.8) |
| Electricity blackout occurred during summer and pharmacy temperature raised above $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ | 71 (39.2) ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |
| a. Infrequent and lasts for 15-180 minutes. |  |

opinions about the compliance of their pharmacies as well as their drug distributors with the local regulations.

In all pharmacies, excess medicines were stored in a small room inside each pharmacy. The inspection revealed serious problems regarding the temperature control in the pharmacies and in their refrigerators. Generally, the degree of cleanliness and neatness of pharmacies was considered acceptable since no serious breach was found. The recordings of inspections and observations made in each pharmacy are summarized in Table 2.4.

Various scoring systems were used in different studies concerned with the quality of pharmacies for a variety of statistical analyses. ${ }^{[14,15]}$ In this study, however, when scores were added to key observations, no significant differences were found between the means of various independent factors, for example, chain vs. independent pharmacies, managers vs. staff, pharmacist informed about the regulations in Saudi Arabia vs. those not informed, and pharmacists aware of the continuing education requirements vs. those who were unaware. The analysis of variance is not possible within nationality and qualification groups because the number of candidates in some of these groups was very small compared to others. Also, no correlation is found between the scores and scale measures such as age and experience.

Table 2.4. Pharmacy inspection results and observations.

| Elements | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { Frequency } \\ n=181 \text { (\%) } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| Availability of an alternative power supply that covers the airconditioning and refrigerator | 10 (5.5) |
| Availability of an additional air-conditioner | 147 (81.2) |
| Availability of a thermometer to measure pharmacy temperature | 157 (86.7) |
| Pharmacy thermometer reading was $\leq 25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}^{\text {a }}$ | $\begin{gathered} n=157 \\ 143(91.1) \end{gathered}$ |
| Availability of a refrigerator | 179 (98.9) |
| Availability of a thermometer in the refrigerator | $\begin{gathered} n=179 \\ 167(93.3) \end{gathered}$ |
| Refrigerator thermometer reading was $3-8{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}^{\mathrm{b}}$ | $\begin{gathered} n=167 \\ 111 \text { (66.5) } \end{gathered}$ |
| Walls behind medicine shelves were not struck by direct sunlight from the outside | 136 (75.1) |
| Walls behind medicine shelves were not hot or warm | 173 (95.6) |
| All medicines were not exposed to direct sunlight | 160 (88.4) |
| Availability of at least 1 comprehensive drug information reference | 37 (20.4) |
| Availability of a copy of the local regulations for community pharmacy practice | 55 (30.4) |
| Free medicine samples were not seen | 176 (97.2) |
| Medicine advertisement was not seen | 153 (84.5) |
| There was a sign that states that prescription drugs cannot be sold without a prescription | 158 (87.3) |
| Shelves were clean ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | 128 (70.7) |
| Walls were clean ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | 135 (74.6) |
| Floor was clean ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | 142 (78.5) |
| Floor was smooth/washable | 181 (100) |
| Pharmacy was neatly organized (medicines were organized in shelves, shelves were organized in space, and pharmacy was not overcrowded with products) | 147 (81.2) |
| a. Readings as high as $30^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ were observed in some pharmacies <br> b. Readings as low as -10 and as high as $20^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ were observed in <br> c. Free of dust, dirt, insects, or spider webs. | me pharmacies. |

The findings of this study suggest that there were some deficiencies in the storage of medicines in community pharmacies in Riyadh and probably in the delivery vehicles, especially during hot seasons. This may, at least partly, explain the existence of substandard levels of amoxicillin in Riyadh pharmacies. ${ }^{[7]}$ Even basic thermometers were not available in about $13 \%$ of pharmacies, and in about $9 \%$ of the pharmacies equipped with thermometers, the reading exceeded the $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ threshold. About $19 \%$ of pharmacies lacked a spare air-conditioner, making the quality of medicines questionable if the only available air-conditioner fails to operate optimally during summer. What is worse, some pharmacists reported that the air-conditioners may not have been kept running after working hours in hot seasons.

In addition, about 7\% of refrigerators lacked thermometers, and in about 33\% of refrigerators the temperatures were outside the accepted range. In about $25 \%$ of the pharmacies some walls behind medicine shelves were struck by direct sunlight from the outer side, and in about $4 \%$ of those pharmacies the walls felt warm.

The local regulations must be updated accordingly to ensure the best storage and distribution conditions for the medicines. Such detailed conditions and specifications may be obtained from the WHO. ${ }^{[16,17]}$ The existence of an alternative power supply that covers the air-conditioning and refrigerators might be necessary in Riyadh although electricity blackouts are infrequent. However, if the durations of blackouts are enough to raise the temperature inside the pharmacy or the refrigerator above the allowed limits, then at least the refrigerator and one air-conditioning unit must be linked to an alternative power supply in each pharmacy.

A significant percentage of pharmacists were unaware of the basic regulations relating to community pharmacy practice. The striking issue is that having knowledge about the regulations had no impact on the quality of storage in the pharmacies. This may explain the absence of any correlation between age or experience and the general score achieved. This also explains the lack of any significant differences between various grouping factors relative to the mean scores.

Stricter, periodic monitoring and inspection by the authorities is highly recommended. It is suggested that all pharmacy owners must add spare air-conditioners as a prerequisite for licensing the pharmacies. Each pharmacy must be equipped with a room thermometer and refrigerator thermometer that keeps a record of temperature variation during the day. In addition, the pharmacy location must be in a position where its walls are not struck by direct sunlight from the outer side, or at least such walls must be adequately insulated. Medicine shelves must not be placed near the entrance or any location exposed to direct sunlight. Distributors’ storage and delivery facilities must also be strictly monitored.

Finally, the continuing education program for community pharmacists must be closely monitored and supervised by the authorities. It is also recommended that passing an annual test about good pharmacy practice (GPP) should be a prerequisite for renewing the pharmacist license.

The quality of on-shelf medicines sold in community pharmacies in Riyadh may be questionable during hot seasons. Meanwhile, refrigerated medicines may not meet the quality standards throughout the entire storage time. More assertive measures and stricter monitoring of the adherence of the community pharmacies to good practice and good storage regulations are highly recommended. Community pharmacists’ continuing education and knowledge about the practice regulations must be improved.

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Annex 2.1. Maps


Map of Saudi Arabia. Riyadh is represented by a red dot.


Map of Riyadh showing its districts. Surveyed districts are marked with red dots.

Annex 2.2. Pharmacy distribution table

| No. | Pharmacy code | District | No. | Pharmacy code | District |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 1092 | Al Nasiriyya | 47 | 1252 | Al Nahda |
| 2 | 1000 | Al Muaizliya | 48 | 964 | Al Masif |
| 3 | - 357 | Al Uraija | 49 | 860 | Al Ulaya |
| 4 | 121 | Salahuddin | -50 | 933 | AlMuham |
| 5 | 1417 | Dharhrat Laban | - 51 | 937 | Al Muham |
| 6 | 1415 | Dharhrat Laban | 52 | 843 | Al Ulaya |
| 7 | 1403 | Dharhrat Laban | - 53 | 847 | Al Ulaya |
| 8 | 203 | Al'Badi'ah | -54 | 849 | Ál Ulaya |
| 9 | 1382 | Dirab | -55 | 859 | Aldulaya |
| 10 | 1428 | Tuwazag | 56 | -756 | Al Uraija |
| 11 | -126 | Al B- Badi'ah | 57 | 215 | Al B- Badi'ah |
| 12 | 946 | Al Mursalat | 58 | 178 | Al Bāadi'ah |
| 13 | 277 | Al Hamra | 59 | 754 | Al Uraija |
| 14 | -68 | AllQuds | 60 | $7 \overline{7} 2$ | ĀİUraija |
| 15 | 282 | Àl Hamra | 61 | 811 | Al ȦAzizia |
| 16 | 94 | Al Mughrizat | 62 | 166 | Al Iskan |
| 17 | 285 | Al Hamra | 63 | 507 | Al Zahra |
| 18 | 1473 | Qurtuba |  | 1058 | King Fahd |
| 19 | 1478 | Qurtuba | 65 | 1024 | AllMalaz |
| 20 | 691 | AlShuhada | 66 | - 977 | AllMasif |
| 21 | _494 | Al Rayyan | 67 | 1470 | Ghurnata |
| 22 | -516 | Al Salam | - 68 | -276 | Al Hamra |
| 23 | 515 | Al Salam | - 69 | 367 | Al Dira |
| 24 | 491 | Al Rayyan | - -70 | 303 | Al Khuzam |
| 25 | 194 | AlBadi'ah | - 71 | 169 | AlAndalu |
| 26 | 553 | Al Súlaimania | - 72 | -871 | Al Ulaya |
| 27 | 597 | Al Suwaidi | 73 | 418 | Al Rawab |
| 28 | 772 | Al Ūraija- | 74 | 842 | Al Ūlaya |
| 29 | 784 | Al Uraija | 75 | 225 | Al Bat'ha |
| 30 | 782 | Ál Uraija | 76 | - 876- | Ál Ulaya |
| 31 | 728 | Al Uraija | 77 | 711 | Āl Sāhafa |
| 32 | 790 | Al Uraija | 78 | 408 | Al Rabi |
| 33 | 748 | Al Uraija | 79 | 898 | Al Ḡhadir |
| 34 | 737 | Al Uraija | - 80 | - 372 | AlRaid |
| 35 | -459 | Al Rawda | - 81 | - 257 | AlTaawun |
| 36 | 395 | Al Rabwa | 82 | -1440 | Irqa |
| 37 | 1240 | Al Nafl | - 83 | -362 | Al Diriya |
| 38 | 1237 | Al Nafl | - 84 | - 1109 | Al Nuzha |
| 39 | - 407 | Al Rabio | - 85 | - 702 | Al Sahafa |
| 40 | - 735 | Ál Uraija | - -86 | - 404 | ĀlRabi |
| 41 | 732 | Al Uraija | - 87 | - 161 | Allzdihar |
| 42 | 745 | Al Uraija | - 88 | 1138 | Al Naseem |
| 43 | 144 | Ishbilia | 89 | 1140 | Al Naseem |
| 44 | 1330 | Al Yarmmouk | 90 | 693 | Al Salihia |
| 45 | 154 | Ishbilia | 91 | 1147 | Al Naseem |
| -46 | -1332 | AlYarmmouk | - 92 | 1170 | Al'Naseem |


| No. | Pharmacy code | District | No. | Pharmacy code | District |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 93 | 1126 | Al Naseem | 139 | 314 | Al Khaleej |
| 94 | 1146 | Al Naseem | 140 |  | All Khaleej |
| 95 | 1171 | Al Naseem | 141 | 1443 | Ulaisha |
| 96 | 1040 | Al Malaz | 142 | 584 | Al Suwaidi |
| 97 | 1017 | Al Malaz | 143 | 622 | Al Suwaidi |
| 98 | 1049 | King Fahd | 144 | 596 | Al Suwaidi |
| 99 | 978 | Al Masif | 145 | 181 | All Badid'ah |
| 100 | 1005 | ÀlMalaz | 146 | 678 | Āl'Shumaisi |
| 101 | 984 | Al Masif | -147 | 680 | Al Shumaisi |
| 102 | 218 | Àl Badi'an | 148 | 397 | Ál Rabwa |
| 103 | 183 | Al Badi'ah | 149 | 524 | Al Salam |
| 104 | 347 | Al Dar Al Baida | 150 | 521 | Al Salam |
| 105 | 586 | Al Suwaidi | 151 | 426 | Al Rawabi |
| 106 | 3 | AlMansoura | 152 | 386 | Al Rabwa |
| 107 | 672 | Al Shifa | -153 | 1285 | Al Wuroud |
| 108 | 645 | Al Shifa | 154 | 1335 | Al Yarmmouk |
| 109 | 641 | Al Shifa | 155 | 1323 | Al Yarmmouk |
| 110 | 620 | Al Suwaidi | 156 | 1318 | Al Yarmmouk |
| 111 | 659 | Àl'Shifa | -157 | 1116 | ĀlıNuzha |
| 112 | 274 | Al Hamra | 158 | 1294 | Al Wuroud |
| 113 | 1250 | Al Nahda | 159 | 1117 | Al Nuzha |
| 114 | 134 | Ishbilia | 160 | 1317 | Al Yasameen |
| 115 | 1244 | Al Nahda | 161 | 704 | Al Sahafa |
| 116 | 136 | Ishbubilia | 162 | 1282 | AlWuroud |
| 117 | 1270 | Al Nahda | 163 | 46 | Al Sulayy |
| 118 | 1242 | Al Nahda | 164 |  | Al Mansoura |
| 119 | 26 | Al Yamama | 165 |  | Al Mansoura |
| 120 | 100 | Al Manāakh | 166 | 1518 | Mañōouna |
| 121 | 422 | Al Rawabi | 167 | 27 | Al Yamama |
| 122 | 1068 | King Faisal | 168 | 957 | ĀlMargab |
| 123 | 991 | Al Mathar | 169 | 954 | Al Margab |
| 124 | 539 | Al Sulaimania | 170 | 1483 | Manfouha |
| 125 | 489 | Al Rayyan | 171 | 1525 | Manfouha |
| 126 | 447 | Al Rawda | -172 | 1491 | Manfouha |
| 127 | 48 | Al Sulayy | 173 | 955 | AlMargab |
| 128 | 485 | Al Rawda | 174 | 1480 | Manfouha |
| 129 | 104 | Al Manar | 175 | 1530 | Namar |
| 130 | 1076 | King Faisal | 176 | 1496 | Manfouha |
| -131 | 309 | AAl Khaleej | -177 | 1455 | G-Ghubaira |
| -132 | 146 | İshōbilia | -178 | 1448 | Ḡhubaira |
| 133 | 1210 | Al'Naseem | -179 | 1127 | ĀINaseem |
| 134 | 1201 | Al Naseem | 180 | 1313 | Al Washm |
| 135 | 1211 | Al Naseem | 181 | 7 | All Mannoura- |
| 136 | 503 | Al Rayyan |  |  |  |
| 137 | 313 | Al Khaleej |  |  |  |
| 138 | -1204 | ĀİNaseem |  |  |  |

Annex 2.3. The questionnaire and its Arabic translation

To: The community pharmacist in charge.
The objective of this questionnaire is to find out, through your experience and observation, whether community pharmacies in Saudi Arabia comply with the optimal practices that ensure keeping and selling good quality medicines. This will help regulatory authorities allocate resources appropriately for the improvement, which will eventually be reflected positively on the public health.

Your contribution is the cornerstone in our research and without it we will not be able to obtain the information in a better way. You have the right not to participate and you can quit the interview at any time if you feel that you do not want to continue.

## You are a very important person to us!

We pledge not to disclose any personal information about you or your pharmacy in any published paper.

We hope that you share with us a few minutes to add your personal touch on this study.

Thank you.
The Chief Researcher
Hani M J Khojah
Mobile: 0505232584

[^0] the page is completely answered

| 1. Age (years) |  |  | Code: | SAR-12-PH- |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2. Sex | $\square$ Male | $\square$ Female |  |  |
| 3. Nationality | $\square$ Saudi | $\square$ Egyptian | $\square$ Syrian |  |
|  | $\square$ Sudanese | $\square$ Yemeni | $\square$ Jordanian |  |

```
11. How often is this
pharmacy temperature
controlled (at less than
or equal to 25* C) after
%
    \squareI do not know
working hours in hot
seasons? (0-100%;
0=never, 100=always)
12. Do you keep the air-
```

Yes (always)

```
\(\square\) Yes (most of the
```

```
\(\square\) Yes (sometimes) conditioner running when the pharmacy is closed during hot No times)
\(\square\) I do not know seasons (including overnight)?
```

```
13. If this pharmacy has a
separate store for
keeping medicines, how
often is the store
temperature controlled
(at less than or equal to
25}\mp@subsup{}{}{\circ}\textrm{C}\mathrm{ ) during hot
seasons? (0-100%;
0=never, 100=always)
```

If the pharmacy has an alternative power supply, please answer the following questions:

| 14. Does it cover the airconditioning system? | No Air-conditioning <br> I do not know | $\square \mathrm{Yes}$ | $\square$ No |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 15. Does it cover the refrigerator? | No refrigerator <br> I do not know | $\square \mathrm{Yes}$ | $\square$ No |
| 16. Does it cover the separate store, if any? | No separate store I do not know | $\square \mathrm{Yes}$ | $\square$ No |
| 17. Where does this pharmacy receive the supply of medicines from? you can check more than one answer if you have various sources | I do not know <br> From a central store that belongs to several pharmacies | Directly from the manufacturer <br> Other: | From the official distributor of the medicine |
| 18. How often is the car/truck that supplies medicines to this pharmacy airconditioned during hot seasons? ( $0-100 \%$; $0=$ never, $100=$ always) | - \% | $\square I$ do not know |  |

```
19. How often do you
receive the pharmacy
supply of medicines in
intact packaging?
```

$\qquad$

``` \(\%\)
```

```
(0-100%; 0=never,
100=always)
20. How often do you
receive the pharmacy
supply of medicines at
less than or equal to 25
C during hot seasons?
(0-100%; 0=never,
100=always)
21. Have you ever
rejected any supply of
medicines because of
```

```
poor packaging or
because it was exposed
to high temperature?
```

22. When was the last
$\square 0-6$ months ago
$\square 6$-12 months ago
$\square 1-2$ years ago time this pharmacy was inspected by a pharmacy
$\square 2-3$ years agoMore than 3 yearsNever inspected regulatory authority?
ago since I was hired

If the pharmacy was inspected, please answer the following questions:

| 23. Who was the <br> inspecting authority? | $\square$ Ministry of Health <br> $(\mathrm{MOH})$ | $\square$ Saudi Food and <br> Drug Authority <br> (SFDA) | $\square$ Other:: |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

25. Is it allowed for thisYes, all OTCsYes, some OTCs pharmacy to give free OTC samples to patientsI do not know as gifts?
26. Is it allowed to sell medicines by strip (except antibiotics) if the client was prescribed a
$\square$ Yes$\square$ Ido not know
few number of dosage
units (less than a full
box)?
( ) For interviewer only. Check when the page is completely answered

| 27. Have you ever encountered any of he following? You can check more than one answer. | received complaints from patients about subtherapeutic effect of some medicines | noticed poor distribution conditions by some distributors, especially during hot seasons | noticed poor storage conditions in some distibutors' stores, especially during hot seasons |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | noticed poor storage conditions in some pharmacies, especially during hot seasons | received a notification from a regulatory authority about the poor quality of certain medicines sold in pharmacies |  |

```
28. To what extent do
you think that medicines
sold in community
pharmacies in Riyadh
contain the correct
amount of active
ingredients (within the
pharmacoepial range)?
(0-100%; 0=never,
100=always)
29. To what extent do
you think that medicines
sold in this pharmacy
contain the correct
amount of active
ingredients (within the
pharmacoepial range)?
(0-100%; 0=never,
100=always)
```

| 30. Have you ever |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| received any notification |  |  |
| from an official |  |  |
| regulatory authority in |  | $\square$ No |
| Saudi Arabia about |  |  |
| stopping selling a certain | $\square$ Yes |  |
| batch of a certain |  |  |
| authentic medicine |  |  |
| because it was of a poor |  |  |
| quality? |  |  |

```
31. Have you ever
received any notification
from an official
regulatory authority in
Saudi Arabia about the
existence of certain
counterfeit medicines in
the market?
```

32. Has ever been a
counterfeit medicine
detected in thispharmacy, unintintionally?

| 33. Have you ever <br> encountered any of the <br> following in this | $\square$ Poor packaging of <br> certain medicines | $\square$ Broken capsules <br> or tablets of certain <br> medicines | $\square$ Discoloration of <br> certain medicines |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| pharmacy? You can <br> check more than one | Precipitates in <br> chswer. | $\square$ Wet or solidified | $\square$ Other changes: |

34. Have you ever received an offer from someone to buy and re-
Yes
sell some medicines of known trade names but with very low price?
35. To what extent do you think that community pharmacies in Riyadh adhere to the optimal storage conditions as
$\qquad$ \%
required by the
authorities ( $0-100 \%$;
$0=$ never, $100=$ always
36. In previous hot seasons, did electricity blackouts happened soNo $\square$ I do not know that the temperature inside this pharmacy raised above $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ?

## 37. If your answer was

"yes", how many
times/month such $\qquad$
timesI do not know blackouts occur during hot seasons.
38. If your answer was
"yes", how long such
blackouts take on
average (in minutes)?

| 39. Which of the following medicines can | $\square$ Mild cough preparations | $\square$ Antihypertensives | $\square$ Disinfectants |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| be sold without a prescription? You can check more than one | $\square$ Mild oral antibiotics | $\square$ Multivitamins | $\square$ Antidiabetics |
| answer | $\square$ Strong oral antibiotics | $\square$ Topical burn preparations | $\square$ Mild analgesics |

إلى: الصيليلي المسؤول في الصيدلية العمامة

الههف من هذه الاستبانة هو معرفةٌ ما إذا كانت الصيدليات العامةٌ في الملكـة
 جودة عالية، وذللك من خلال خبرتكم وملاحظاتكم. و هذا سيساعد الجهات المسؤولة في تخصيص المو ارد بُّكل ملأُم من أجل التُصسين، مما سينعكس في النهاية إيجابيًا على صحةٌ المجتع.

إن مساهنتلك هي حجر الأساس في بحشنا وبدونها فإنتا لن نستطيع الحصول
 يككنك أن تنسحب في أي وقتّ إذا شُعرت بعدم الرغبة في الاسشتر ار.

## أنت شخص مهم للفاية لنا!

ونحن نتعهد بعدم إفشاء أي معلومات شخصية علك أو عن صيدلينّل في أي بحث يتم نشره.

نأُمل أن تشاركنا بيضع دقائقّ لكي تضع لمستّك الخاصةٌ على هذه اللر اسة".

شُكرًا لك.


| SAR-12-PH- | الرمز: |  | 1- السن (بالسنوات) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 林 | ¢ $\square$ | r- الجنس |
| $\square \square$ | $\square$ | $\square$ | r- الجنسية |
| $\square \square \square$ | $\square$ | $\square$ |  |
| ..................... | ■ $\square$ | $\square$ |  |
| ם هاجمسِّر (.............) | $\square$ <br> (........)............ $\square$ | $\square$ <br> $\square$ | ¢- الموّ هل والدولة لكل درجة |
| فى الرياض..................... |  | الإجمالمي | -ــ الخبرة العطلية في الصيدليات العامة (بالسنوات) |
| المنقلقة.................... | الدنققة\| | في منالطقَ أو مدن أخرى فـي |  |
| ...................is $\square$ | د $\square$ | مدرِّ $\square$ | 7- مركزك في هذه الصيدلية |
|  | $\square$ النسعودية | $\square$ السعودبية | V- ا- هل تم إخطارك بنظام مزاولة المهنة في الصيدليات العامة في الصعودية؟ |
| فرف¢ $\square$ | y $\square$ |  | A- هل أنت مطالب بإتمام ساعات تقليم مستمر معينة كل سنة؟ |
| فرex $\square \square$ | y $\square$ | - $\square$ | 9- هل تتبع هذه الصيدلية لسلسلة صيدليات يزيد عددها عن |

- ا- ما هو مدى التحكم بدرجة حرارة هذه الصيدلية (بحيث تكون 0 ب درجة
$\qquad$ منوية أو أقلّ) خلال ساعات العمل في المواسم الحارة؟ (. - . . 1 \% ٪) الصفر يعني لا يتم ذلك مطلقا، المانّة تعني دانمًا)




|  | ¢رف $\square$ | \% | Ar^- إذا كانت إجابتك بنعم فكم دقيقة تستمر مثل تلـ الانقطاعات عثى المتوسط؟ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\square$ |  |  | 9- جـ أي من الأدوية التالية يمكن بيعه بدون وصفة؟ يمكا الختيار أكثر من |
| ■ | ■ $\square$ | $\square$ <br>  | إجابة |
| ■ المسكنات الخفبفة لكّلم | $\square$ <br> للحروقٌ | المصـادات الحِوِية القوبية $\square$ الّْى لَعطى بالفم |  |

Annex 2.4. The inspection form and its Arabic translation

## Observation form A

| Code: | SAR-12-PH- |  | Interview date: |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

( ) For interviewer only. Check when

| Pharmacy references provided by the owner | $\square$ Not allowed to see | $\square$ Nothing available | Reference 1: |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Publishing year: |
|  | Reference 2: | Reference 3: | Reference 4: |
|  | Publishing year: | Publishing year: | Publishing year: |
| Regulations of community pharmacy practice in Saudi Arabia | $\square$ Available | $\square$ Available as claimed by the pharmacist but not allowed to see | $\square$ Not available |
| Pharmacy phone number (from the pharmacist not from the sign of the pharmacy) |  |  |  |
| Interview ending time (hours:minutes): | - | $\square \mathrm{am}$ | $\square \mathrm{pm}$ |

( ) For interviewer only. Check when

Observation form A



Annex 2.5 The observations form and its Arabic translation

## Observation form B

| Pharmacy code: | SAR-12-PH- |  | Interview date: |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

( ) For interviewer only. Check when

| Pharmacy floor. You can <br> check more than one <br> answer. It could be <br> smooth/washable but not <br> clean or <br> smooth/washable and <br> clean. | $\square$ Clean | $\square$ Smooth/washable | $\square$ Dust |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Organization of items in <br> the pharmacy (you can <br> check more than one <br> answer except when you <br> check "Neat") | $\square$ Other: | $\square$ Neat | $\square$ Dirt spots |
| $\square$ Other: |  |  |  |$\quad$| $\square$ Other: |
| :--- |

( ) For interviewer only. Check when the page is completely answered

## Observation form B


$\qquad$


Annex 2.6 Training and survey schedule

| \% |  |  |  |  |  |  | - |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
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| $\stackrel{3}{2}$ 인 |  |  |  | $\sim$ |  |  |  |
| \% ${ }^{2}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\stackrel{3}{2} \stackrel{\infty}{\sim}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\underset{\substack{3 \\ \text { A }}}{ }$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  | $\stackrel{\sim}{3}$ |  |  |  |
| $O$ |  |  | $\stackrel{\text { d }}{\substack{\text { a } \\ \sim \\ 0}}$ |  |  |  |  |
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| $\stackrel{+}{3}$ | - |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| O ~ |  | ןеsıeәyə. | pue | əpnłs | $10+$ |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |


[^0]:    ( ) For interviewer only. Check when

