

Exploring Perception, Role, and Barriers of Community Pharmacists in Providing Pharmaceutical Care for Patient with Mental Disorders: A Cross-Sectional Study

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ABSTRACT

In Indonesia, patients with mental disorders do not receive proper medical care. Despite the potential for community pharmacists to improve mental health outcomes and bridge gaps in care, there is limited data on Indonesian community pharmacists providing pharmaceutical care services for patients with mental disorders. This research aims to assess the perception, role and challenges faced by Indonesian community pharmacists in mental healthcare management.

This was a cross-sectional study that used a self-report questionnaire with open and closed questions among a convenience sample of 1867 community pharmacists.

This study found that 46% of community pharmacists did not stock psychotropic drugs due to strict regulation, fear of drug abuse and few request. However, 70% of participants agreed on the important role community pharmacists play in managing mental health care, while approximately 60% acknowledged their duty to provide pharmaceutical care. Nonetheless, inadequate training was identified by 66% as a major barrier hindering effective service delivery. Furthermore, only a minority (13.2%) demonstrated excellent knowledge of mental disorders. The community pharmacists feel confident ($p=0,002$) but are not comfortable enough to provide pharmaceutical care to patients with mental disorders ($p=0,249$). There is little attention to Indonesian community pharmacists' roles in mental disorders management. Urgent implementation of mental health training is necessary, with pharmacist-government collaboration to utilize their untapped potential.

Keywords: *pharmaceutical care, mental health, pharmacist, barrier, psychotropics, Indonesia*