

**Deanship of Graduate studies  
Al –Quds University**



**Assessment of Physicians' Compliance with the Essential  
Drug List at Governmental Hospitals - Gaza Governorates**

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**MPH Thesis**

**Jerusalem–Palestine**

**1438-2016**

**Assessment of Physicians' Compliance with the Essential  
Drug List at Governmental Hospitals - Gaza Governorates**

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A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for  
The Degree of Master of Public Health/Health Management.  
Al-Quds University

**1438 - 2016**

**Al –Quds University  
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## **Thesis Approval**

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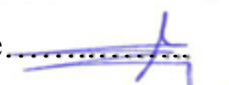
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**Jerusalem- Palestine**

**1438 - 2016**

## **Dedication**

*To my mother and father to whom I owe my life and success  
To my dear wife who has been a great source of motivation and  
inspiration.*

*To my little princes; **Lana** for here encouraging smiles*

*To my brothers and sister*

*To my friends*

*To my colleagues*

*And*

*To everyone who contributed to make this study a reality*

**Ahmed Abdelmajed Saleh Al-Khodary**

## **Declaration**

I certify that this thesis submitted for the degree of master is the result of my own research, except where otherwise acknowledged, and that this thesis or any of its parts has not been submitted for higher degree to any other university or institution.

**Signed:**

**Ahmed Abdelmaged Saleh Al-Khodary**

**Date:    /    / 2016**

## Acknowledgement

This thesis would not have been possible without the guidance and help of several individuals who contributed and extended their valuable assistance in the completion of this study. My high recognition and appreciations is due to **Dr. Khitam Abu Hamad** for her support and guidance.

- I am grateful for **Dr. Bassam Abu Hamad** and **Dr. Yahia Abed**.
- Deep thanks to my family who supported me, especially my parents, and my wife.
- Many thanks go to my dear friends **Dr. Na`el Skaik**, **Dr. Ramadan Al-Khatib**, and **Dr. Saifuddin Odah**, **Dr. Ra`ed Kashkash**, **Dr. Zakari Abu Kamar**, **Dr. Majda Al-Kishawi**, and **Dr. Anwar Jadallah**.
- Many thanks go to my colleagues who worked with the research as volunteer assistants for their efforts in collecting data and questionnaires.
- Lastly, many thanks are due to health care providers who participated in the study and without them this work could not be completed.

The researcher would like to thank colleagues at Al-Shifa hospital, colleagues at Nasser hospital, colleagues at EGH hospital, colleagues at Al-Aqsa hospital, and colleagues at Kamal Odwan hospital for their active support for this research in facilitation of data collection.

**Ahmed Abdelmaged Saleh Al-Khodary**

## Abstract

*Physician's compliance with Essential Drug List (EDL) is defined as the extent to which their prescribing behavior matches the recommendations of the Palestinian Ministry of Health. Improper prescribing behavior of physicians has a negative impact on medical resources leading to serious financial overload, as well as undesired health impacts on patients. Promoting appropriate use of drugs, including compliance with EDL could save up to 5% of countries health expenditures. The WHO defines the Essential Drugs as those that satisfy the priority health care needs of the population.*

*The overall aim of the study was to assess physicians' compliance with EDL at governmental hospitals in the GG. The design of this study is a cross section: quantitative analytical design. The quantitative data were collected using 2 tools: First tool was a well-structured questionnaire which was used to collect data on physicians' knowledge and attitude toward EDL. The other tools are three checklists that were used to collect data on Physicians' compliance with EDL. The first checklist was used to extract data from the in-patient medication sheets (admitted cases); the second checklist was used to extract data from the emergency department reports-discharge sheet of emergency rooms; and the third checklist was used to extract data from the in-patient discharge reports, discharge certificate in the study settings. In total, 296 questionnaires were collected, 1098 in-patient medication sheets, 1595 emergency department reports, and 1226 in-patient discharge reports from the study settings. Analysis of data was conducted using SPSS program; the analysis involved conducting frequency distributions, cross tabulation, mean percentages, one-way Anova, and Chi-square.*

*Findings of the study have showed that the average total number of drugs prescribed in the in-patient medication sheet in the study settings was 5.21 drugs per sheet; the majority of the collected in-patient medication sheets (78%) were fully compliant with EDL. The average total number of drugs prescribed in the emergency department reports among the study settings was 2.17 drugs per emergency department report; only one third of the collected emergency department reports (31%) were fully compliant with EDL. The average total number of drugs prescribed in the in-patient discharge reports among the study settings was 3 drugs per report; nearly one third of the collected in-patient discharge reports (31%) were fully compliant with EDL. The findings of the study have also shown that knowledge of the study participants about the MoH-EDL, hospital EDL and its updating process is not high. However, there is a positive attitude among physicians about the EDL and its benefits. The majority of the study participants agreed on the importance and necessity of EDL for: provision of equitable health services; provision of quality health services; reduction of wasting in financial resources; reducing patient harm; and on the fact that the listed drugs in the EDL are selected on scientific bases. The majority of the study participants neither communicated with hospital pharmacists properly nor responded to pharmacists' recommendations in prescribing drugs from EDL. The study findings revealed that hospital management does not efficiently exercising its role in encouraging physicians to be compliant with EDL.*

*There is a need to implement a continuous education and training programs for healthcare staff concerning EDL and treatment protocols; to disseminate printed and softcopies copies of the EDL and hospital EDL; to activate the monitoring role of auditing system to improve physicians' compliance with EDL; to update the MoH EDL and hospital EDL. There is a need to conduct more research studies, including both qualitative and quantitative studies to deeply understand all the relevant factors that might affect physicians' compliance with EDL. There is also a need to conduct similar research studies in specialized and private hospitals.*

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## List of Abbreviations

<b>CDS</b>	Central Drug Stores
<b>EDL</b>	Essential Drug List
<b>EDRs</b>	Emergency department reports
<b>EGH</b>	European Gaza Hospital
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GG</b>	Gaza Governorates
<b>GNP</b>	Gross National Product
<b>GS</b>	Gaza Strip
<b>IPDRs</b>	In-patient discharge reports
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Developmental Goals
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>NEDL</b>	Non Essential Drug List
<b>NGOs</b>	Non Governmental Organizations
<b>OCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>PCBS</b>	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
<b>PHC</b>	Primary Health Care
<b>PLO</b>	Palestinian Liberation Organization
<b>PNA</b>	Palestinian National Authority
<b>PNF</b>	Palestinian National Drug Formulary
<b>P &amp; T committee</b>	Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee
<b>RUD</b>	Rational Use of Drugs
<b>RUM</b>	Rational Use of Medicine
<b>SPSS</b>	Statistical Package of Social Sciences
<b>STGs</b>	standard clinical treatment guidelines
<b>UNRWA</b>	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
<b>WB</b>	West Bank
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

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