efforts, complex manufacturing process and higher distribution costs) were found to be the key influencing factors when determining biologics’ prices. Since these characteristics vary significantly depending on the type of biologics, the important ratios used in the pricing formula like “SG&A/ales ratio,” “yield rate,” “profit rate (innovation-based),” “distribution mark-up,” “VAF rate” and “differentiation mark-up (quality-based)” have to be determined on a case by case basis. Using blood products as an example, three differentiation factors (clinical efficacy, gold standard finish product assessment and overall manufacturing process evaluation) are key to achieve different- nal pricing. CONCLUSIONS: Differential pricing should be included in the biologics pricing system. Ratios in the existing pricing formula like “yield rate,” “distribution mark-up,” “profit rate” and “differentiation mark-up” should be adjusted to reflect the differences between biologics and chemicals. Differentiating criteria should be carefully chosen to reflect the value of biologics thus to develop the biopharmaceutical industry.

OBJECTIVES: Our major objective was to investigate the degree of adherence of WHO recommended patient care indicators in health-care facilities operat in Galle Sri Lanka. METHODS: A total of 422 patients attending to the Outpatient Department in selected Hospitals in Galle district in Southern Province. Average Dispensing Time (ADT), Percentage of Drugs Actually Dispensed (PDAD), Percentage of Drugs Adequately Labeled (PDAL) and Patients Knowledge on Correct Dosage (PKCD) were compared in these selected Teaching, General and District Hospitals in Galle. RESULTS: ADT in DH (1.16 min) and GH (1.07 min) were high when compared to ADT in TH (0.81 min). PDAD was 100% in DH, 97.79% in GH and lowest in TH (94.64%). PDAL was highest in 22.66% in TH, 17.57% in GH and lowest in DH (1.57%). PKCD was 100% in GH and lowest in DH (0%) and only 50% in TH in Galle District. We noted that there was a significant difference in ADT, PKCD and average number of drugs labeled in all three categories (P < 0.05). But there was no significant difference in average no of drugs prescribed and dispensed in three categories of these hospitals. We noted that dispensers spend only short dispensing time and there was a tendency for dispensing errors. We found that PDAL was very low in all Hospitals but PDAD was significantly high. Even though the ADT was high in DH, PDAD was 0% due to unorganized dispensing practices. We also noted 100% PKCD only in TH due to practice of well prepared correct labeling system. CONCLUSIONS: Therefore we suggest to implementing proper dispensing techniques by introducing well printed prepared drug labeling system and commencement of recorded announcements to improve patient’s knowledge on drug administration.

OBJECTIVES: Elderly are prone to many acute and chronic age related diseases which needed multiple drug usage. Therefore medicine use evaluation pattern in this group is very important and a significant part of public health system policy. METHODS: In a cross sectional household survey, 20 clusters were selected from the post office sampling frame in Tehran. Each cluster consists of 40 households who had at least 1 person over the 60 years old. Questionnaire of the study was completed for all of the individuals outside the campus. A diagram of different oral solid dosage forms (tablets, capsule, tablet, caplet, and soft gelatin) was provided during the answers session. Data from 300 individuals were presented by frequencies and percentages for categorical variables and were analyzed by chi-square test. RESULTS: Capsule was the most preferred OSDF and the easiest form in swallowing. Males prefer OSDF to be in blue color while female Prefer pink. Most respondents prefer OSDF to be without taste, small in size, and round in shape. The preferred physical characteristics was size followed by taste, shape, and color respectively. A significant difference (P < 0.05) was found between gender and ethnic groups toward the preferred OSDF. CONCLUSIONS: Based on the result of this study, public have their preferences toward a particular OSDF and a particular physical characteristics. Size is the most important physical characteristics for the public to manage their choice regarding OSDF, followed by taste, shape, and color.

PROSPECTIVE ENCOUNTER STUDY ON PATIENT CARE INDICATORS IN HEALTH-CARE FACILITIES

The University of Ruhuna, Galle, south, Sri Lanka

OBJECTIVES: Our main objective was to investigate the degree of adherence of WHO recommended patient care indicators in health-care facilities operatin in Galle Sri Lanka. METHODS: A total of 422 patients attending to the Outpatient Department in selected Hospitals in Galle district in Southern Province. Average Dispensing Time (ADT), Percentage of Drugs Actually Dispensed (PDAD), Percentage of Drugs Adequately Labeled (PDAL) and Patients Knowledge on Correct Dosage (PKCD) were compared in these selected Teaching, General and District Hospitals in Galle. RESULTS: ADT in DH (1.16 min) and GH (1.07 min) were high when compared to ADT in TH (0.81 min). PDAD was 100% in DH, 97.79% in GH and lowest in TH (94.64%). PDAL was highest in 22.66% in TH, 17.57% in GH and lowest in DH (1.57%). PKCD was 100% in GH and lowest in DH (0%) and only 50% in TH in Galle District. We noted that there was a significant difference in ADT, PKCD and average number of drugs labeled in all three categories (P < 0.05). But there was no significant difference in average no of drugs prescribed and dispensed in three categories of these hospitals. We noted that dispensers spend only short dispensing time and there was a tendency for dispensing errors. We found that PDAL was very low in all Hospitals but PDAD was significantly high. Even though the ADT was high in DH, PDAD was 0% due to unorganized dispensing practices. We also noted 100% PKCD only in TH due to practice of well prepared correct labeling system. CONCLUSIONS: Therefore we suggest to implementing proper dispensing techniques by introducing well printed prepared drug labeling system and commencement of recorded announcements to improve patient’s knowledge on drug administration.

METHODS: A self-administered questionnaire were distributed in a cross-sectional study aims to identify the principles the public considers important, and the trade-offs between different values in resource allocation practices. METHODS: Two Focus groups were created and discussed a variety of issues on resource allocation in health care. Participants in the groups were introduced to the objective of the project and problems at hand. To facilitate the group discussion, a simple ranking task and a series of group discussions indicate that the severity of disease and the socio-economic status was found to be an important consideration in resource allocation decision. CONCLUSIONS: The findings from the group discussions indicate that the severity of disease and the socio-economic status of the patient is the most important priority setting criteria in the national health insurance setting. To further these results, a discrete choice experiment with ordinary people will be conducted and discussed.

THE PUBLIC’S PREFERENCE ON THE PRIORITIES IN HEALTH CARE SAFETY, EFFICACY, AND ACCESS TO CARE IN SINGAPORE

Ng Kwok Hwa1, Ng Chai Sel Win3

OBJECTIVES: This study investigates the public opinion on the issues of distributive justice in health care. From the literature, we can ascertain several principles outlining priority setting decisions—health maximization, fair distribution, and equity. This study aims to identify the principles the public considers important, and the trade-offs between different values in resource allocation practices. METHODS: Two Focus groups were created and discussed a variety of issues on resource allocation in health care. Participants in the groups were introduced to the objective of the project and problems at hand. To facilitate the group discussion, a simple ranking task and a series of group discussions were recorded and later analyzed by researchers. RESULTS: Severity of disease was the most important criteria of priority setting for participants. The majority supports the idea that the most disadvantaged should have the highest priority, even though their health gain is less than others. Rare diseases were given high priority because of their severity, not their raresness. Through the focus group interview, we could find a strong public support for the equal opportunity principle. Next to severity of disease, socio-economic status was found to be an important consideration in resource allocation decision. CONCLUSIONS: The findings from the group discussions indicate that the severity of disease and the socio-economic status of the patient is the most important priority setting criteria in the national health insurance setting. To further these results, a discrete choice experiment with ordinary people will be conducted and discussed.