

## Letter to the Editor

### Evaluation of medicine prescription pattern

Sir,

I would like to discuss on the report on "Evaluation of medicine prescription pattern."<sup>[1]</sup> Karimi *et al.* concluded "there is an inevitable need to improve prescription habits among different specialties, especially among general practitioners."<sup>[1]</sup> In fact, the problem of improper prescription is common in clinical practice and should be well-managed. Similar problems can be seen in many countries. For example, in Niger, there were "few prescriptions according to standard treatment" and becomes the urgent problem to be managed.<sup>[2]</sup> It is no doubt that the problem exists. The more important thing is the factors contributing to the prescribing behavior. Here, we would like to show the experience from China on this problem. Of interest, it was found "doctors with more education, more training on rational drug use, and better acquisition of medicine knowledge prescribe a lower percentage of generic drugs."<sup>[3]</sup> It is suggested that education and "performance evaluation for doctors"<sup>[3]</sup> seem to be the good way for promotion of good prescribing practice. In addition, the "economic incentives" is found to be another important factor affecting rational drug use.<sup>[4]</sup>

Sim Sai Tin<sup>1</sup>, Viroj Wiwanitkit<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Medical Center, Shantou, China

<sup>2</sup>Hainan Medical University, Hainan, China

Corresponding author:

Prof. Sim Sai Tin,

E-mail: [simsaitin@gmail.com](mailto:simsaitin@gmail.com)

## REFERENCES

1. Karimi A, Haerizadeh M, Soleymani F, Haerizadeh M, Taheri F. Evaluation of medicine prescription pattern using World Health Organization prescribing indicators in Iran: A cross-sectional study. *J Res Pharm Pract* 2014;3:39-45.
2. Mallet HP, Njikam A, Scouflaire SM. Evaluation of prescription practices and of the rational use of medicines in Niger. *Sante* 2001;11:185-93.
3. Wang H, Li N, Zhu H, Xu S, Lu H, Feng Z. Prescription pattern and its influencing factors in Chinese county hospitals: A retrospective cross-sectional study. *PLoS One* 2013;8:e63225.
4. Chen M, Wang L, Chen W, Zhang L, Jiang H, Mao W. Does economic incentive matter for rational use of medicine? China's experience from the essential medicines program. *Pharmacoeconomics* 2014;32:245-55.

### Access this article online



Website: [www.jrpp.net](http://www.jrpp.net)

DOI: 10.4103/2279-042X.145398