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# Establishment of a National Reporting Form for Detection of Medication Errors within Pharmaceutical Vigilance System

A Thesis submitted for the fulfillment of Master Degree In Pharmaceutical Sciences (Clinical Pharmacy)

By

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### Tist of Abbreviations

ADE Adverse drug event
ADR Adverse drug reaction

AE Adverse event

ASHP American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

CDC Centers for Disease Control

DHPC(s) Direct Healthcare Professional Communication(s)

EDA Egyptian Drug Authority EMA European Medicines Agency

EPVC Egyptian Pharmaceutical Vigilance Center

EPVC-ALEX Alexandria Regional Center of the Egyptian Pharmaceutical

Vigilance Center

ER Emergency room EU European Union

FDA Food and Drug Administration

HCP(s) Health-care practitioners/ healthcare professional(s)

HRIG Human rabies immunoglobulin ICSR(s) Individual Case safety report(s)

ICU Intensive care unit IM Intramuscular

IMSN International Medication Safety Network

IOM The Institute of Medicine

ISMP Institute of Safe Medication Practice (USA)

IV Intravenous

LLT Lowest Level Terms

MAE Medicine administration error

ME(s) Medication error(s)

MedDRA Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities

MHRA Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency

MM The Monitoring Medicines project

NCC MERP National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting

and Prevention

NHS England National Health Service
NIH National Institutes of Health

NO HARMe National Office for Handling and Reduction of Medication errors

NPSA National Patient Safety Agency (England)
NRLS National Reporting and Learning System

PCC Poison control centre
PEP Postexposure Prophylaxis

### Tist of Abbreviations (Cont ..)

PS Patient Safety

PSA Patient Safety Alert

PSO Patient safety organization

PV Pharmacovigilance

PVCs Pharmacovigilance centres

RCA Root cause analysis

Smpc/ Spc Summary of product characteristics

SOCs System Organ Classes

UMC Uppsala Monitoring Centre

VAERS Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System

WHO World Health Organization

YC Yellow Card

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#### **Abstract**

**Introduction:** Health care professionals (HCPs) may still think of pharmacovigilance (PV) strictly in terms of identifying and reporting adverse drug reactions (ADRs), however, the scope of national pharmacovigilance centres (PVCs) has expanded to identify, analyse and prevent medication errors (MEs) through collection of reports of MEs.

**Aim:** To detect MEs which were inadvertently collected as ADRs by Alexandria Regional Center of the Egyptian Pharmaceutical Vigilance Center (EPVC-ALEX) and to establish a valid national medication error reporting form within pharmaceutical vigilance system to strengthen the capacity of EPVC to detect MEs.

**Methods:** The study is an ambispective study, conducted on 3 phases: Preinterventional phase: Retrospective analysis of PV database operated by EPVC was applied on reports received from the primary care units dated from March to November 2013 and additional fatal ME reports dated in 2014. Interventional phase: The proposal of a National Reporting Form for detection of medication errors within pharmaceutical vigilance system. Post-interventional phase: Prospective study was conducted in 2019 to validate the newly developed reporting form by conducting two rounds of Delphi technique on experts in clinical pharmacy practice by using Likert scale questionnaire. Pharmacists successfully reported MEs by using the developed form.

**Results:** The current study revealed that the Egyptian PV database was a rich source of MEs, many of which were found to originate in the hospital setting and reported as ADRs (66%) from March to November 2013. 91% of the detected ME cases were not encoded as ME p< 0.001 and 61% of errors were encountered in Direct Healthcare Professional Communication (p< 0.05). Characteristics of the yellow card (YC) revealed that male patients exposed to MEs were more than females, most of them were 18 years and older, the weight was not mentioned by the reporters in the majority of the reports. The most commonly used route was intravenous IV. Most of the suspected drugs reported were antibiotics, antithrombotic agents, systemic antihistamines and rabies vaccine. Most reporters were pharmacists who used the YC English version more than the Arabic one. Case fu was done mostly by phone.

The current study showed the limitations and invalidity of the existing ADR reporting form within EPVC (YC) to report MEs. Although 4% of the yellow cards were considered invalid, this percentage is underestimating the real rate due to the inability of the items on the yellow card to capture near misses, potential or prevented errors because the reaction is missing. Seriousness of the suspected reactions was inaccurately judged by both EPVC assessors and reporters in most cases. Moreover, reporters were significantly confused in rating reactions severity and confused between what should be reported as "reaction" versus the "outcome" in 22% of the cases as in case of death, which was reported as a "reaction" although it is an "outcome", the analysts got confused as well in 17 % of the cases p< 0.001.

The causality criteria of the YC didn't apply on 75% of ME cases p<0.001. Assessors assigned "Possible" causation between the suspected drug and the reaction in 42% of the cases; which confirms that ADR has no certain pharmacological relation to