



FEDERATION OF ASIAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATIONS
STATEMENT ON MEDICATION SAFETY THROUGH
SEPARATION OF DISPENSING AND PRESCRIBING

The Federation of Asian Pharmaceutical Associations (FAPA), an organization of 21 national pharmaceutical organizations in Asia, acknowledges that safety is an unalienable right of every patient who is on medication. Adverse events may arise when medicines are prescribed, dispensed and used inappropriately. Globally, adverse consequences of medication errors come with significant epidemiologic and economic costs – harm and loss of human lives, and a staggering US \$42 billion annually.



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Unsafe use of medications is a priority health agenda of the World Health Organization and is now the focus of the Third Global Patient Safety Challenge – *Medication Without Harm*. FAPA supports the goal of this global challenge which is to reduce by 50% severe avoidable medication-related harm in the next 5 years.

To ensure medication safety, FAPA is in agreement that systems and practices are complex and that problems related to patients, medicines or health professionals need to be addressed properly.



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To respond to the challenge, FAPA member associations are admonished to (1) determine the extent of medication errors in their respective countries, (2) identify critical areas where appropriate interventions could be implemented, and (3) provide data on the success and limitations of the interventions employed.

One intervention explored is the separation of dispensing and prescribing practices (SDP) of pharmacists and doctors, respectively. It is expected that SDP will redound to better health outcomes due to improved quality of health services, better working relationship among health providers, and cost-savings for the health system and the patients themselves.



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Furthermore, FAPA expresses its support for medication safety through a campaign entitled, *Put Your Hands Up for Medication Safety* where member associations signified their commitment to this advocacy during the Stakeholders' Forum on Patient Safety Challenge: Medication Safety through SDP.

FAPA will follow-up and guide its member associations to provide evidences of the outcomes of the separation of dispensing and prescribing practices, particularly its contribution to medication safety.



PUT YOUR HANDS UP FOR MEDICATION SAFETY!

- This 2017, FAPA launches its campaign to support the World Health Organization's Third Patient Safety Challenge: Medication Safety.
- According to WHO, unsafe medicines, Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) and medication errors are leading causes of injury in both developed and developing countries. It is estimated that over 50% of medicines all over the world are prescribed, dispensed or sold inappropriately.
- If you believe that we need to reduce harm from medications in Asia, put your hands up in your social media account and use the hashtags:
- **#PatientSafety #MedicationWithoutHarm #FAPAmedsafety**

