

THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS OF MEDICINE RESIDENTS ON THE PRICES OF PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS AND DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES AND ITS EFFECT ON THEIR PRESCRIBING PREFERENCES

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BACKGROUND AND AIMS: The recent national economic decline demands belt tightening. The same is true in the healthcare sector and at The Medical City, a tertiary facility in Manila, Philippines. A major factor would be the prescribing practices of physicians with regards to prices of medications and diagnostics. A prudent and rational use of these medications and diagnostic modalities have a huge impact on the patients' finances. The study aims to determine the level of awareness of medicine residents on the prices of common medications and diagnostic tests, as well as its effect on their prescribing preferences.

METHODS: This study is a descriptive cross-sectional survey, which includes data gathering through questionnaire, retrieval, tabulation, and interpretation. A probability random sampling of 15 medicine residents was done using the Lynche formula. They were asked to answer a pre-tested questionnaire and non-respondents were sent another questionnaire. Data were analyzed using the percentage and weighted average. Inferential analysis was done using ANOVA.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSION: Interpretation shows that all respondents agree that the prices of medications and diagnostic tests are important factors that influence them in their practice. They believe that physicians should know the prices of medications and tests. They also consider the economic status of their patients in their practice. However, mean price estimates show significant difference in the perceived prices of prescribed and ordered medications and tests and the actual prices of such ($p > 0.05$), rejecting the null hypothesis.

Keyword: Medicine, Residents, Pharmacoeconomics