

Knowledge, Attitude and Perspective of community pharmacists in the sale of COVID-19 self-test kits in Ipoh, Perak

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Malaysia experienced a surge in the number of active COVID-19 cases. As a result, the government came out with several measures and standard operating procedures to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the most significant measures is by allowing the sale of COVID-19 self-test kits. This enables the public to do a self-test when they are close contacts or exhibiting symptoms. It enables immediate self-quarantine when found positive. This will restrict the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Community pharmacies around the country have been in the forefront in selling the COVID-19 self-test kits. Their accessibility and role in counselling has made community pharmacists as an important figure in selling and counselling the public on the sale and use of COVID-19 self-test kits. **Objective:** The objective of the study is to evaluate the knowledge, attitude and perspectives of community pharmacists in the sale of COVID-19 self-test kits in Ipoh, Perak. **Materials and methods:** A cross-sectional survey study design was used to conduct this study. It was carried out via an online structured questionnaire distributed among the community pharmacists in Ipoh, Perak. 62 community pharmacists in Ipoh responded to this survey. **Results and conclusion:** It was found that 88.71% of the respondents have a good knowledge about the COVID-19 self-test kits. Around 58% of them portrayed a moderate attitude while selling the COVID-19 self-test kits, which included the demonstration and counselling. Whereas 58.2% of the community pharmacists showed moderate level of perspective while selling COVID-19 self-test kits sales. There is a need for the community pharmacists to undergo more training on COVID-19 self-test kits to improve their level of attitude and perspective when they sell the kits to the public. This will improve the management of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

Keywords: COVID-19, self-test kits, sale, knowledge, attitude, perspective, community pharmacist, Ipoh, Perak