

## Healthcare professionals' unlicensed drug prescribing practice in children and neonates

Dow University of Health Sciences, Pakistan

Despite the pharmaceutical products prescribed for Food and Drug Administration–approved indications, unlicensed drug uses may have deficiency of rigorous scientific scrutiny. Regardless of concerns about patient care and health care expenditure, little is known about the frequency of unlicensed drug use or the degree of scientific evidence supporting this practice. The current study was conducted to observe the practice of unlicensed drug prescribing practices in children and neonates in clinical settings of Karachi, Pakistan. A cross sectional study was conducted during Jan-May, 2018 in different health care setups. Health care practitioners were assessed for prescribing practice of unlicensed drug prescribing in children by requesting them to fill and submit the survey form. Multivariate analyses were used to identify drug-specific characteristics predictive of increased unlicensed drug use. The current study revealed that health care practitioners often used the practice of unlicensed drug prescribing in children. Majority of them considered that off-label prescribing is safe if used with strong scientific research. Unlicensed drug use is common in patient care, and most occurs without scientific support. Efforts should be made to scrutinize under evaluated off-label prescribing that compromises patient safety or represents improvident medication use.

### Biography

Sadia Shakeel obtained her M.Pharm (Pharmaceutics) in 2009 from University of Karachi, Pakistan and awarded doctorate degree in Pharmacy practice in 2017 from Jinnah University for women, Pakistan. She is a Clinical Research Certified Professional from Dow University of Health Sciences. She is currently rendering her services as a Faculty member in Dow College of Pharmacy, Dow University of Health Sciences, one of the oldest public research university located in urban metropolitan area of Karachi, Pakistan. She is a prolific researcher and author. She has authored over 70 peer-reviewed publications in international journals and several research abstracts / research posters to her credit.

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