



## Outline of Risks and Opportunities for Nepal's Pharmacy Data Systems

Haavid H\*

South and West Drug Information Centre, Southampton, UK

### Abstract

Healthcare professionals and patients can access current information on many aspects of drugs through the Drug Information Center (DIC) or Medicine Information Services. By fostering medication knowledge and supporting pharmaceutical services, medicine information services also help to reduce medication errors. This reflective commentary's main goals are to emphasize the current state of Nepal's medical information services, DIC problems, DIC strengthening strategies, and DIC prospects for the future. It is now simpler to evaluate the information in a nation like Nepal thanks to the availability of medicine information on multiple online drug information sites and programmers (apps). Before being shared, this information's veracity and dependability should be examined. By assisting doctors in using pharmaceuticals more safely and encouraging adverse drug reaction (ADR) reporting in Nepal, DIC plays a critical role in enhancing drug safety. There is not enough financial support in Nepal to run the DIC effectively, which causes operational issues. To guarantee the high quality of the service, the effectiveness of the nation's medical information services should be assessed on a regular basis. The government, private hospitals, and regulatory organizations should take action to maintain the current DIC and to build new DICs in the future to offer the community high-quality healthcare services.

**Keywords:** Medical pharmacologists; Drug information; Drug resource center; Hospitals; Medicine information services; Nepal; Pharmacist; Pharmacovigilance; Drugstore practice

### Introduction

A specialist service offered by pharmacists or clinical pharmacists, medicine information services (also known as drug information services) improves understanding of medicines to enable judicious prescribing and reduce medication errors. Drug Information Center (DIC) offers patients, consumers, and healthcare professionals with reliable, up-to-date, relevant, and well-referenced information about [1-5] medications, including their indications, side effects, and safety

knowledge regarding proper drug usage by making and disseminating to the general public written materials based on research, such as flyers, brochures, and booklets. In order to provide high-quality DI, Drug Information Network of Nepal (DINoN) was founded in 1996. Its mandate [14] includes creating and spreading clear medication information on appropriate usage, contraindications, potential adverse drug reactions (ADRs), drug standards, efficacy, and toxicity. Five founders and four regular members made up the total of nine members of DINoN. 17 When it first began, DINoN was actively involved in the spread of drug information, but as time went on, the network's operations declined due to a lack of donor funding. Since its founding in 2003, the Drug Information Center (DIC) at Manipal College of Medical Science's (MCOMS) MTH, Pokhara, a tertiary care teaching hospital, has been involved in a variety of activities related to drug [15] information, medication counselling, drug information bulletin publication, pharmacovigilance, and continuing pharmacy education (CPE) programmes. DIC in MTH published a quarterly bulletin on drug safety and quality.

### **Recent scenario of medicine information services in Nepal**

Accessing accurate and current information on medications and treatments is challenging and continues to be a significant restriction in developing nations like Nepal. The seamless operation of the DICs in Nepal has still not been achieved despite the closure of some of them. According to a research conducted in Nepal, over 40% of DIC enquiries were about ADRs, demonstrating the value of DIC in resolving such problems. Additionally, the role of pharmacists has been clearly defined in terms [16, 14] of spontaneous ADR reporting, the transmission of medical information for the improvement of drug therapy, and improved patient health management. Incomplete functionality exists in the DICs at the B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences (BPKIHS), KIST Teaching Hospital, College of Medical Sciences (COMS), and Resource for Primary Health Care (RECPHEC). In a few other hospitals in Nepal, pharmacovigilance (PV) centres and centres for medicine information are in the development stages with plans to fall under the purview of the pharmacology or pharmacy departments [15].

### **Drug information online sites and resources**

