

# Pharmacy Safety and Occupational Health Program in Saudi Arabia

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Medication safety is a well-known concept locally and internationally.<sup>[1]</sup> It deals with drugs inside the patient's health workers or healthcare providers.<sup>[2]</sup> In contrast, another safety issue discusses the safety of the patient or healthcare professionals. It is safe during the occupational and professional process.<sup>[3]</sup> There are safety concerns for the whole life during working, house, and practicing everyday life. The safety to prevent any destruction or threats of personal, equipment, material, or pharmaceutical products and the environment during health care operations.<sup>[4-6]</sup> Safety is required for ethical issues and humanity's safety. Providing a safe environment during regular work and jobs leads to work satisfaction and increases performance and activities.<sup>[7,8]</sup> Besides, practice safety performances that distribute safety concepts in society. Safety at work requires strictly following occupational health safety laws and regulations and voiding any financial penalties if not following the law.<sup>[7,8]</sup> besides the economic burden by preventing incidents for human life, equipment, and the environment.<sup>[7]</sup>

There are various local governmental and international associations responsible for occupational health safety and related issues, including the Ministry of Building,<sup>[9]</sup> the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development,<sup>[8]</sup> the Ministry of Interior (Civil of Defense),<sup>[10-13]</sup> General Organization for Social Insurance,<sup>[14,15]</sup> The Ministry of Labor (USA),<sup>[16-21]</sup> National Fire Protection Association (USA),<sup>[22-25]</sup> Occupational Safety and Health Administration (USA),<sup>[22-25]</sup> The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (USA), and The institute of occupational safety and Health (UK). Besides some local and international quality management standards from Saudi Central Board for Accreditation of Healthcare Institutions (CBAHI) and Joint Commission with emphasis on Facilities Management Safety (FMS).<sup>[26,27]</sup>

All those agents released various standards about occupational safety-related issues for general and healthcare workers.<sup>[23,28-30]</sup> Specific literature about pharmacy occupational safety is rarely found emphasizing hospital or community pharmacies.<sup>[31-36]</sup> Unfortunately, most of the literature was very old, not specific for pharmacy practice, or incomplete review. The application of occupational safety emphasis on pharmaceutical care is unique in the literature. Various topics might discussed, for instance, fire protection

in pharmacy buildings, materials safety data sheet in pharmacy, pharmacy crisis and disaster management, education and training of occupational safety in pharmacy systems, pharmacy competencies of occupational safety, total quality management of occupational safety in pharmaceutical facilities, and other topics which suitable for occupational safety and health. Those topics will be discussed as a series of articles in the journal.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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## CONSENT FOR PUBLICATIONS

Informed consent was obtained from all the participants.

## ETHICAL APPROVAL

This research is exempted from research and ethical committee or an institutional review board (IRB) approval.

<https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/decision-charts-2018/index.html>

## ABBREVIATIONS

**MOH:** Ministry of Health; **KSA:** Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; **CBAHI:** Saudi Central Board for Accreditation of Healthcare Institutions; **FMA:** Facilities Management and Safety; **USA:** United States of America; **UK:** United Kingdom.

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