

Cost Analysis and Cost Impact of Pharmacy Services in Saudi Arabia

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The general administration of pharmaceutical care strategic planning founded during 2010-2020 with an emphasis on Pharmacoeconomic and cost analysis related issues.¹ The evaluation of the previous plan and updated of pharmacy strategic plan with new Saudi vision 2030 released in 2018 included the cost analysis of pharmacy services and cost avoidance of impact clinical pharmacy services.² Within a short time, several publications discussed the necessary foundations of Pharmacy services. The cost was demandable to quantify the services and calculated as cost expenditures to determine the new economic income from each pharmacy service. Also, to estimate the impact of cost avoidance of pharmacy services provided to the patient. Several methods used to calculate the cost of pharmacy services. The conventional techniques were calculated the time spent with each clinical activity and salary paid to the pharmacist. The other method used for cost calculation was determined the fixed cost including personal cost, material and supply cost, fixed expenses including direct cost, non-salary cost and overhead cost. All price was used US dollar currency. The cost impact or avoidance method was from drug-related morbidity and mortality cost avoidance. The technique is widely used in local or international researches.

Based on the updated pharmacy skeleton and related services, the cost should be calculated. Several pharmacy services had been calculated, drug information services and activities, drug information education and training, total parenteral nutrition services, drug distribution system with unit dose, floor stock, discharge patient, medication errors, adverse drug reactions and other drug-related problems.³⁻⁷ Other services had not calculated and badly needed for further investigation; for instance, intravenous services related issues, the cost of each clinical pharmacy services and the extemporaneous preparation.

Besides, several studies have done about cost impact or avoidance of pharmacy services that are including the effects of medication safety services, cost avoidance of drug information centers, the economic impact of total parental nutrition, critical pharmacist care impact and cost avoidance.⁸⁻¹¹ Several clinical pharmacy services still demand investigation of the immediate financial implications of pharmacy oncology services, cost avoidance of cardiology units, ambulatory care services, patient education and counseling, medication reconciliation and cost impact of clinical pharmacy services during mass gatherings hajj period. In this issue, several authors explore

many investigations about the pharmacy services cost analysis and results of the cost avoidance.

The cost analysis or cost impact is an essential tool in the monitoring pharmacy services within updates pharmacy strategic plan with new vision 2030 of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

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