

PhAMA Position Statement

Prescription and Dispensing Separation

PhAMA member companies' innovative medicines are prescribed to patients currently through over 10,600 healthcare facilities in Malaysia. These healthcare facilities include large healthcare institutions consist of 417 Government healthcare facilities and 112 Private Hospital, and private primary care domain which includes 7,439 private practice physician clinics and 2,723 pharmacies.

In the Government Healthcare and Private Hospital setting, currently practiced, the separation of prescribing and dispensing has been implemented for many years. Meanwhile, in the private primary care domain, medicines are supplied either through the doctors or through pharmacists. The historical reason for this was in the earlier days there were very few pharmacists and as such clinics/doctors had to take on the dual role to prescribe and dispense medicines to ensure patient access to medication.

In 2006, the Health Ministry stated under the *National Medicines Policy* the intent to eventually separate the prescribing and dispensing functions. PhAMA believes the eventual separation of the two functions must be properly managed and implemented. We hope the Health Ministry would provide opportunities to all stakeholders to discuss issues needed to be resolved in the current private healthcare environment to support policy changes. Consideration should be given to infrastructure, manpower, capability and capacity to ensure a healthcare delivery system that can support the needs of patients.

PhAMA will support any public and private sector healthcare policies that helps patients gain better access to medicines.

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