

# Risk of Shake Hands, Physical Verification of Medicines by Hand, Display Methods, Etc. for the Spread of Infections and the Types of Infection Control Systems to be followed by the Modern Community Pharmacy Premises

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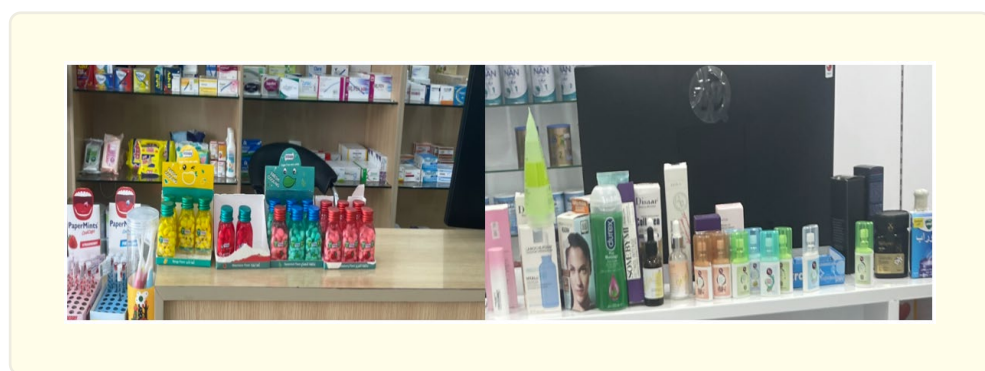
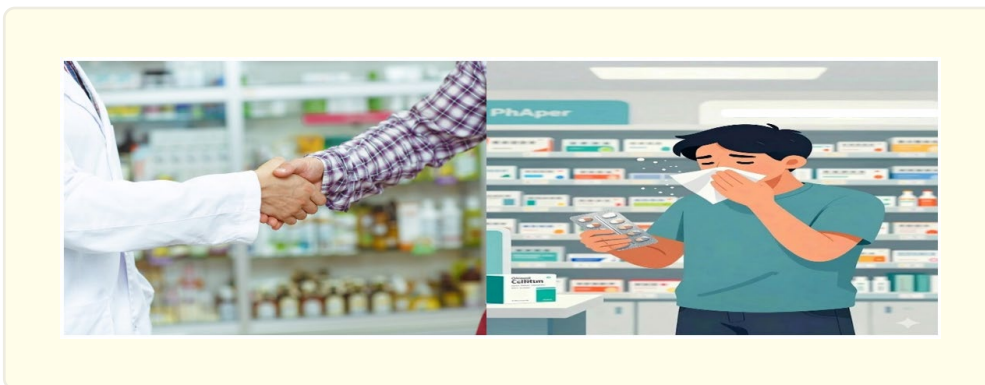
## Introduction

Infection control in healthcare systems like hospitals, clinics and other community health care centers are obeying well controlled manners including biomedical waste management through proper regulations governed by the concerned government authorities. Infection prevention & control is the practical evidence-based approach preventing patients & health care workers from being infected or harmed by avoidable microbial infections. However, the infection control system in the modern community pharmacies must be modified to protect a healthy population, especially the community pharmacies, which must not be the center to spread infectious microbes towards a healthy person, especially pregnant, children or other immuno-compromised non communicable disease patients. Here we suggest a few things to implement and make sure in all community pharmacies must not be the spots to transfer infections.

## Methods to control

Do not hand over the medicines to check the label or color or shape, etc. towards the patient's hand without confirming their needs as well as complete the process of sale including billing. Most of the patients with cold and other droplet infections come and check each anti allergic or paracetamol combinations or cough syrups or prescribed antibiotics and other medicines to make sure this all are their wishes or not. Most of this medicines after physical checking they return by handover to the Pharmacists, even the Pharmacist do sanitize hand also the microbes still be there on that medicines box for the couple of hours based on the nature of microbes especially in the cool climate of the Pharmacy & that may spread to the upcoming patients.

Do not allow the Pharmacies to keep the display medicines, candies, etc on the dispensing table as its get contamination from the patients coughing, sneezing, etc that may transfer to the upcoming customers especially this is high risk for children's because they may take and check candies or mouth fresheners which may be handled by the previous cold or flu or other infectious patients.



Do not allow us to welcome the customers or patients by Shake Hands because they may come with cold or other skin infections that we come to know once they say their symptoms only. Instead of pandemic or any other reasonable season we cannot compel the customers to keep facemask & sanitize their hands and so we cannot make sure the customers or patients' hand is hygiene or not. As part of the infection control system, we must be protected by ourselves through proper infection control protocols & that will protect other patients from the spread of infections.

Better keep at least one meter distance in between customers & patients because most of the community pharmacies are facing the problem of very close maskless discussions that Pharmacist cannot ask then to keep distance because the customers may be taken it as the negative way and that's not professional also for the community of Pharmacists. So it is better to keep a good spacious dispensing table in front of the Pharmacies without any display on that.

Washing hands properly with soap and water can help prevent the spread of the most pathogenic germs like bacteria, viruses, etc. Better be keep one wash basin inside the Pharmacy premises to hand wash routinely as per the needs of the working Pharmacists or other staff in the community Pharmacies instead of using unnecessary hand sanitizers to avoid inverse effect on their skin health.

## Conclusion

Shake hands, Physical verification of medicines by hand, Display methods, Etc. influence the spread of infection through the community pharmacies that we can avoid by the implementation of the given methods. This will be helpful for the healthcare community especially community pharmacy managing authorities for the needs of the implementation of infection control systems as it is mentioned only based on the nature of works happen in the most customer attached modern concepts of community pharmacies.

### **Acknowledgement**

I convey my sincere respect to my parents, gratitude to my colleagues & all my friends who are supporting my research & innovations.

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