

THE EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION KNOWLEDGE AND COUNSELLING PRACTICES OF PHARMACISTS IN FIJI

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Background:

Little is known about the provision of emergency contraceptive pills (ECP) over the counter through pharmacies in Fiji. This project aimed to identify the ECP knowledge and practices of pharmacists during the provision of contraception relation point-of-care information, counselling and referral.

Methods:

An online survey was distributed through pharmacy networks to recruit registered pharmacists working in community-based pharmacies. The purpose of the survey was to ascertain what EC knowledge pharmacists have, how they counsel customers, and what support they need to improve their practice. The survey comprised of closed and open questions and took 15-20 minutes to complete.

Results:

The survey reached the majority of retail pharmacies in Fiji, resulting in 22 eligible respondents. The findings provide valuable insights into ECP supply, customer profile and purchasing patterns, information provision, and knowledge and views of pharmacists in Fiji. The identification of areas where misconceptions exist suggests a need for targeted education for pharmacists. The results highlight the importance of providing a range of information and education options to pharmacists, and the need for improved access to ECP for people seeking to prevent unintended pregnancy.

Conclusion:

Findings from the survey can inform the creation of a job aide to support community pharmacists to deliver evidence-based EC information, communicate effectively with consumers, and provide environments for informed decision-making.

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