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A survey of the public willingness to pay for professional pharmaceutical services in the Johannesburg metropolitan area

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For further information or enquiries about this survey the following authorities may be contacted

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Survey of the Public Willingness to pay for professional pharmaceutical services in the Johannesburg metropolitan area



SURVEY OF THE PUBLIC WILLINGESS TO PAY FOR PROFESSIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES IN THE JOHANNESBURG METROPOLITAN AREA

Hello, my name is Riona Sonne and I am a pharmacist. I am in the process of completing my Masters' degree at Wits University. I am doing this survey as part of my research project for my degree.

The aim of this project is to determine whether members of the public in the Johannesburg metropolitan area, are willing to pay for professional services offered by their community pharmacists, as well as the dispensing fees charged by them. I also wish to find out how valuable pharmaceutical services are to the public.

I would greatly appreciate your participation which is voluntary and anonymous. You will not be asked to provide any personal information, in this way protecting your confidentiality.

This brochure has been specially designed to give you more information on the research topic in an attempt to make it easier for you to answer the questions that follow. Please read all the information before answering any of the questions in the survey.

WHAT IS A DISPENSING FEE?

The dispensing fee is a fee that pharmacists can add to the price of the medicine when they dispense it to the buyer(1). This fee has been set by the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC). Government introduced a Single Exit Price (SEP) for all medicines which intended that the manufacturers set the price of medicines. This meant that the pharmacies could not add a profit to the medicines, so the dispensing fee was introduced to make up for this. The dispensing process involves the pharmacist applying professional skills such as analysing the prescription for any problems, counselling the patient with information on the correct use of the medicines, side effects, and providing advice, where needed, on any lifestyle modifications or precautions.

WHAT IS A PROFESSIONAL FEE?

The professional fee is a fee that a pharmacist may charge for specific pharmaceutical services(2.) The professional fees which pharmacists may charge have been determined by SAPC and should be the same for a specific service at any pharmacy that offers professional pharmaceutical services.

WHAT IS A PROFESSIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICE?

A professional pharmaceutical service is a service that has been approved by the SAPC, for pharmacists to carry out. These services include monitoring of blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar levels, family planning services, healthy lifestyles advise, etc. The pharmacist should be correctly trained and qualified before they are allowed to carry out the service.



If you wish to participate in this survey please ensure that you sign the informed consent on the back of the questionnaire before answering the questions..