



The Impact of Mandatory Continuing Professional Development on Antibiotic Dispensing Practices: A 2009 Case Study of Private Pharmacies in Dar es Salaam

Juma Rashidi¹, Fatma Mwinyi¹

¹ Mkwawa University College of Education

Published: 25 July 2009 | **Received:** 25 February 2009 | **Accepted:** 30 May 2009

Correspondence: jrashidi@outlook.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18529382](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18529382)

Author notes

Juma Rashidi is affiliated with Mkwawa University College of Education and focuses on Medicine research in Africa. Fatma Mwinyi is affiliated with Mkwawa University College of Education and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Abstract

Inappropriate antibiotic dispensing by private pharmacies is a major driver of antimicrobial resistance in Tanzania. A mandatory continuing professional development (CPD) policy was introduced for pharmacists to improve knowledge and adherence to dispensing guidelines. This case study assessed the initial impact of the mandatory CPD policy on antibiotic dispensing practices among private pharmacists in Dar es Salaam. It sought to understand changes in knowledge, attitudes, and reported behaviours following the policy's implementation. A qualitative case study design was employed. Data were collected via in-depth, semi-structured interviews with a purposive sample of private pharmacy owners and practising pharmacists. Interview transcripts were analysed thematically to identify key patterns and perceptions. The impact was mixed. Pharmacists reported improved theoretical knowledge of antibiotic stewardship, but this did not consistently translate into practice. A prominent theme was the persistent pressure to dispense antibiotics without prescription due to commercial imperatives and patient demand. Many participants admitted to frequently deviating from guidelines to maintain customer relations. The mandatory CPD policy enhanced pharmacists' knowledge but was insufficient alone to change entrenched dispensing practices. Structural and economic drivers within the private pharmacy sector significantly undermined the policy's intended effect on antibiotic stewardship. Recommendations include integrating more practical, scenario-based training into CPD programmes. Educational interventions should be coupled with stronger regulatory enforcement and public awareness campaigns to reduce patient demand for inappropriate antibiotics. Antimicrobial resistance, continuing professional development, pharmacy practice, private sector, Tanzania, antibiotic stewardship This case study provides insights for policymakers on the limitations of standalone educational mandates in changing complex health behaviours, highlighting the need for multi-faceted strategies to combat antimicrobial resistance.

Keywords: *Antimicrobial resistance, Continuing Professional Development, Private pharmacies, Sub-Saharan Africa, Antibiotic stewardship, Case study, Tanzania*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

Email: info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

Submit at: app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge