

Review of: "An Analysis of Pharmaceutical Inventory Management at a Leading Teaching and Referral Hospital in Kenya"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

In this study, the authors analyzed Pharmaceutical Inventory Management at a Leading Teaching and Referral Hospital in Kenya employing inventory analyses techniques. The paper is well written, and the research study is interesting. That being said, however, I have the following recommendations and/or suggestions. Please see below for more information.

Introduction

- Although the introduction provides useful information regarding the phenomenon under investigation and the paragraphs included in this section are nicely linked together, it doesn't cover the problem statement with the focus of the study or justify the research gaps it aims to address. Providing clear information regarding the significance of the research and its contribution would add great value to this manuscript.
- In page 3, line 7, "When this approach is taken, all vital and costly items are included in Category I (AV, BV, CV, AE, AN)". This implies that items in the 'AV' category appear to be the only ones included. Thus, format it as: When this approach is taken, items in either the vital or costly groups are included in Category I (AV, BV, CV, AE, AN).
- Please express the acronym in full the first time it appears in this manuscript, and do not begin a sentence with an acronym. For example, JOOTRH?

Methods

- This is a useful and well-written section; it needs further explanation why this research focuses on the JOOTRH. I would suggest starting the methodology section by providing relevant information about the context selected—why JOOTRH has been used as a case? What are the characteristics of the context regarding the pharmaceutical supply management aspect?
- The method used to analyse the data is well explained. Add a mention of whether the analysis includes medical equipment or not.
- **Study Design:** "This was a retrospectively longitudinal study." I believe the intended data for a three-year review period was gathered from various logistical, financial, and/or database sources, indicating a more retrospective cross-sectional research type. To be clear, reviewing this section is critical for readers.
- **Study Period:** "The study was conducted from 2018 to December 2020." I further believe that the study was conducted between January 2021 and February 2021, after ethical permission – reference number P961/12/2019 suggests this. The intended data was reviewed from January 2018 to December 2020. I also suggest a relook of this sentence.

- It was stated in the data collection section, "Consumption data from bin cards at the main pharmacy stores and the dispensing area was collected, as was expenditure data from invoices at the dispensing areas, stores, accounting, and procurement departments". This may raise the question of whether data analysis takes into account the quantity of medicines consumed in a year or the quantity of medicines purchased in a year. Some medicines may be purchased in bulk but not entirely consumed within the same year. Providing explicit information, whether the quantity purchased or consumed is considered for the analysis, is crucial for scholarly understanding.

Results: This is a good section providing the data analysis and results!

- This section is more connected and coherent in flow if the presentation is as follows:
 - a. Drug expenditure at JOOTRH during the study period
 - b. ABC classes and expenditure at JOOTRH during the study period
 - c. VEN classification and expenditure at JOOTRH during the study period
 - d. ABC-VEN matrix classification at JOOTRH during the study period
 - e. Morbidity pattern analysis at JOOTRH during the study period
 - f. Therapeutic category analysis at JOOTRH during the study period

Discussion: This section is well written.

CONCLUSION: This section is well written too. I would suggest adding the practical implications here, so they can explain what the contribution of the study is. Also, they need to suggest any venues for further research.