

Development of a Web-Based National Antidote Supply System

Haslina H (1), Adilah MA (1), Halilol R (1), Sulastri S (1), Asdariah M (1), Azaharudin AA (1), Nur Afni A (1), M Nazri MT (1), Rahmat A (1). 1. National Poison Centre, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 Penang, Malaysia

Introduction : The cost of poisonings and the subsequent treatment is significant. Due to the high cost of antidotes and unpredictable number of cases, the decision to keep a reasonable amount or not to keep certain antidotes in the hospital remains difficult especially at district hospitals in Malaysia. **Objectives** : To study and develop a prototype web-based antidote supply system intended to improve the current antidote supply system among government hospitals, thus making antidotes readily accessible and at the same time reduce possible wastage and cost. **Methods** : A study to collect baseline data on antidotes was done in 2004 and 2007 via a survey form sent to Pharmacy Departments in all 139 government hospitals in Malaysia. One hundred and twenty-one hospitals responded. Based on this survey, the antidote system was designed to have features such as information on availability of antidotes, stock levels, and distributors as well as basic drug information on the antidotes. In the system, the updating of the stock levels and other related information on supplies are the responsibilities of each hospital and for this purpose, a designated individual from each hospital will be given access to the system. The design of the system also allows approved users to view the availability of antidotes and stock levels in any government hospitals, as well as enabling on-line enquiries as to whether antidotes could be borrowed when needed. **Conclusion** : A pilot study involving a number of hospitals to evaluate the applicability and usefulness of system has been planned. While we see many opportunities in approving access to antidotes within the country and possibility of reducing wastage and manage cost through this web-based antidote system, we anticipate certain challenges in implementing this system.