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OPEN PEER REVIEW

Investigation of the Group Purchasing Structure in the Field of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices: The Case of Public Pharmacies

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SUBMITTED	REVISED	ACCEPTED	DOI
3 Aug 2022	2 Nov 2022	5 Dec 2022	10.5812/ijpr-130522

About this report

This open peer review (OPR) report shows the public comments made on this article during peer review, by the reviewers, the associate editor and the editor-in-chief, for every revision round, together with the authors' replies. Comments appear only with the consent of the people who wrote them. Reviewers who chose to sign their report are named; the others are shown as "Referee". Comments are edited for language only, and confidential remarks to the editors are not included.

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Contents

1 **Original submission** Referee 1, Associate Editor 2
2 **Revision 1** Referee 2, Associate Editor 3
Authors' reply to reviewers 4
Reviewer and editor comments 5
3 **Revision 2** Associate Editor 6
Authors' reply to reviewers 7
Reviewer and editor comments 8

1 Original submission

2 comments · 17 Sep 2022 – 17 Oct 2022

Referee 1 Reviewer

ACCEPT 17 Sep 2022

The definition of public pharmacies has probably not been clarified.
The job positions of the interviewees have not been specified correctly.

Associate Editor

MINOR REVISION 17 Oct 2022

I would like to thank the author(s) of the submitted manuscript for shedding light on the issue of group purchasing in the pharmaceutical sector. I have a few comments that I have listed below:

1. There is a small degree of ambiguity about the interviewees' position and affiliation:
#128 It has been pointed out that the interviewees from Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences were unavailable at the time of the interview. Yet 14 interviewees have been presented in Table 1.
2. It would be better to replace information about the interview duration and word count in Table 1 with information about the affiliation and position of the interviewees.
3. Results from this study have not been compared to findings from other studies in the discussion section.
4. Abbreviations should be spelled out when first presented in the manuscript:
#84. . .. GPO contract
#321. . .. HIM infrastructure

5. Several sentences throughout the manuscript can be difficult to comprehend:

#43 In commercial organizations and for manufacturers, costs from purchase prices account for 60-90% of total turnover
#73 These two structures represent the two ends of a sliding scale and form different types of continuous forms

Best regards,

2

Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Dear Reviewers,

Thank you for your insightful comments. In the following tables, your questions and doubts will be addressed.

Comments of reviewer1	responses
Definition of public pharmacies has not been clarified probably	Types of public pharmacies were clarified in the manuscript.
The job position of interviewees has not been specifies correctly	Affiliation and position of interviewees were added in table 1. Thanks for your comment.

Comments of associate editors	responses
1.There is a small degree of ambiguity about the interviewees' position and affiliation; #128 It has been pointed out that the interviewees from Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences were unavailable at the time of interview. Yet 14 interviewees have been presented in table 1.	According to reviewer's comment, Ambiguities about interviewees were resolved in the main text and table 1.
2. Information about the interview duration and word count in Table 1, is better to be replaced by information about the affiliation and position of the interviewees.	Affiliation and position of interviewees were added in table 1. Thanks for your comment.
3. Results from this study have not been compared to findings from other studies in the discussion sector.	Additional studies were descripted in the discussion sector.
4. Abbreviations should be spelled out when presented first time in manuscript; #84…. GPO contract #321…. HIM infrastructure	Lists of abbreviations were added in the manuscript.
5. Several sentences throughout the manuscript can be difficult to comprehend; #43 In commercial organizations and for manufacturers, costs from purchase prices account for 60-90% of total turnover #73 These two structures represent the two ends of a sliding scale and form different types of continuous forms	Mentioned sentences were reviewed and related corrections were done.

2 Revision 1

2 comments · 1 Nov 2022 – 1 Nov 2022

Referee 2 Reviewer

MINOR REVISION 1 Nov 2022

The manuscript has been improved and most comments have been addressed in an appropriate manner. However, the abbreviations should not be listed in the manuscript but need to be spelled out the first time they appear in the manuscript.
For example:

SCM is a set of strategies that integrate.....
should be changed to:
Supply Chain Management (SCM) is a set of strategies that.....

Associate Editor

MINOR REVISION 1 Nov 2022

Dear authors,
The manuscript has been improved and most comments have been addressed in an appropriate manner. However, the abbreviations should not be listed in the manuscript but need to be spelled out the first time they appear in the manuscript.
For example:
SCM is a set of strategies that integrate.....
should be changed to:
Supply Chain Management (SCM) is a set of strategies that.....
Best regards,

3

Revision 2

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Dear Reviewers,

Thank you for your insightful comments. In the following tables, your questions and doubts will be addressed.

Comments of reviewer1	responses
The manuscript has been improved and most comments have been addressed in an appropriate manner. However the abbreviations should not be listed in the manuscript but need to be spelled First time they appear in the script. For example; SCM is a set of strategies that integrate..... should change to ; Supply Chain Management (SCM) is a set of strategies that.....	Abbreviations were spelled first time in the manuscript.thanks for your comments.

Comments of associate editors1	responses
The manuscript has been improved and most comments have been addressed in an appropriate manner. However the abbreviations should not be listed in the manuscript but need to be spelled First time they appear in the script. For example; SCM is a set of strategies that integrate..... should change to ; Supply Chain Management (SCM) is a set of strategies that.....	Abbreviations were spelled first time in the manuscript.thanks for your comments.

3 Revision 2

1 comment · 4 Dec 2022

Associate Editor

ACCEPT 4 Dec 2022

The last revision is acceptable.