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## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **Question: What is the role of the General Administration of Drug Utilization and Pharmacy Practice?**

The role of the General Administration of Drug Utilization and Pharmacy Practice is focused on paying attention to sound pharmacy practices and always kept on the optimal and rational use of drugs based on international guidelines to achieve the highest levels of pharmaceutical care and ensure patient safety.

The administration plays this role through several domains, including governance of antimicrobial use, prescription, and dispensing of non-prescription drugs according to an official reference, evidence-based practice in clinical pharmacy and oncology pharmacy, in addition to its role in reducing medication errors and drug therapy problems, disseminating drug awareness for patients and healthcare providers, and promoting drug information that is comprehensive and accurate.

### **How do you determine the outputs of the General Administration of Drug Utilization and Pharmacy Practice?**

The General Administration of Drug Utilization and Pharmacy Practice has many committees. These include the antimicrobial rational drug use committee, the oncology pharmacy committee, pharmacy practice guides, and the national drug lists committee. Each committee has different outputs including different guides and other issues.

Examples of publications:

- National Guidelines for Antimicrobial Prophylaxis in Surgery
- National Guidelines for Switching Antibiotics from IV to Oral
- Antimicrobial Monitoring Sheet and Timeout Tool
- National Guidelines for Preauthorization of Restricted Antimicrobials in Hospitals
- Egyptian National Antimicrobial Formulary
- Guidance for Classification as Non-Prescription Medicinal Products (OTC)
- Egyptian Guide for Oncology Pharmacy Practice - Volume 1
- Egyptian Guide for Oncology Pharmacy Practice Volume II- Chapter 1 - Biologics and Biosimilars
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In addition, the General Administration for Drug Utilization and Pharmacy Practice has a NOHARME system, "National Office for Handling And Reduction of Medication error" which collects, analyzes, and shares data on medication errors and drug therapy problems. One of the outputs of the NOHARME system is the periodic newsletter. NOHARME newsletter was launched to provide information on the safe and effective use of medications. It was also established to share knowledge about the patterns of medication errors and drug therapy problems reported to the NOHARME system.

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**Question: What is the Egyptian National Drug Formulary?**

The Egyptian National Drug Formulary contains a list of medications registered by EDA. It includes key information about the medications, e.g., indications, doses, interactions, adverse drug reactions, contraindications, the use in pregnancy and lactation, and the administration of medications.

The Egyptian National Drug Formulary aims to provide pharmacists and other healthcare professionals with correct, practical, and up-to-date information about medication use. This enables the rational use of drugs, ensures the reduction of total medical costs, and improves patients' access to improved healthcare services and better quality of life. It also ensures the optimal use of resources. The Egyptian National Drug Formulary includes information needed by healthcare professionals about drugs registered by the Egyptian drug authority.

## **OTC Frequently Asked Questions**

### **For pharmaceutical companies**

**1-How can I change my medicine classification from Prescription to Non-Prescription Medication?**

If you wish to change your medicine classification from prescription to non-prescription, you will need to apply to the General Administration of Drug Utilization and Pharmacy Practice.

**2- Where can I access the criteria and requirements for converting a prescription drug to a non-prescription drug?**

You can find them in the guide “Guidelines for Classification as Nonprescription Medicinal Products (OTC)” on the Egyptian Drug Authority Website.

**3- What is the best way to know about non-prescription medications in Egypt?**

Check out the OTC drug list approved by Egyptian Drug Authority and published on their website.

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