



## ORIGINAL RESEARCH

### Healthcare Workers Knowledge and Practice about Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting and Pharmacovigilance in Zaria, North-West Nigeria

Odiba O<sup>1</sup>, Aghahowa SE<sup>2</sup> and Aghahowa ME<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacy Practice, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria; <sup>2</sup>Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria; <sup>3</sup>Department of Surgery, Asokoro District Hospital, Abuja Nigeria

**Address for correspondence:**

**Dr. S. E. Aghahowa**

Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology,  
Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Benin,  
Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.

**Email:** se-aghahowa@uniben.edu

**To cite this article:** Odiba O, Aghahowa SE and Aghahowa ME. Healthcare Workers Knowledge and Practice about Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting and Pharmacovigilance in Zaria, North-West Nigeria. Journal of Basic and Social Pharmacy Research, 2022;2(6):62-71

**ISSN: 2705-3245**

#### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Pharmacotherapy aims to optimize patient care by increasing drug efficacy and reducing drug toxicity. However, this goal is not always achieved particularly when adverse drug reaction (ADR) occurs. Globally, knowledge and practice of pharmacovigilance has enhanced health-care systems in recent times. Despite this, there are limitations in some regions.

**Objectives:** The study aimed to investigate the knowledge and practice about adverse drug reaction reporting and pharmacovigilance among health workers in healthcare facilities in Zaria, North-west Nigeria

**Methods:** A descriptive cross-sectional survey was conducted using structured questionnaires. These were distributed among 453 health workers in two tertiary hospitals, two secondary hospital, twelve primary health-care centers and twenty-three community pharmacies. The results were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical analysis.

**Results:** Of the 453 respondents, male/female ratio was 1:1.1, 62% had heard of pharmacovigilance though only 29% correctly defined it. Participants were mainly Nurses (39.5%) and Doctors (25%). About 75% knew the meaning of ADR reporting, 54% knew about existence of pharmacovigilance in Nigeria and 35.32% agreed that all workers should report ADRs. Only 40% agreed that there was an existing reporting system and 65% send reports to pharmacists. A significant difference in knowledge and level of practice of ADR reporting ( $P = 0.0001$ ) exists. Ignorance (63%) and negative perception (46%) by the professionals were the main reasons for low ADR reporting.

**Conclusion:** The results showed that an appreciable number of respondents had sufficient knowledge and practice of pharmacovigilance. The study recommends that stakeholders should intensify efforts in strengthening pharmacovigilance practice.

**Keywords:** Pharmacovigilance; ADR Reporting; Knowledge and Practice; ADRs, Zaria, Nigeria, Healthcare facilities