SUMMARY

Over the last two decades, the WHO has made various efforts at promoting rational use of drugs by specifying drug use indicators for assessing drug use patterns in hospitals and the community. In developing countries several interventions aimed at improving identified irrational drug use have become cost-saving measures in healthcare delivery.

This study aimed at assessing the drug use pattern at the medical outpatient clinic, UCH, Ibadan using certain WHO drug use indicators and calculating the average cost of daily medications to patients. A questionnaire assessing patients' knowledge of their illness and medications was also administered as part of the study. An intervention was carried out based on feedback and reminders, the effect of which was later assessed.

A total of 1542 (91.7%) prescriptions were reviewed from 1682 patient encounters in the baseline study. 140 (8.3%) encounters were none drug encounters. The overall average number of drugs/encounter was 3.3 ±1.5; overall percentage of drugs prescribed as generic was 49.5% ±31.2; overall percentage of drugs prescribed from hospital essential drug list was 96.0% ±14.0. The overall average cost of medications to patients/day was ₦121.6 ±136.0 (Naira). The study also revealed that 30% of patients interviewed were unable to tell what illness they had while only 31% of all the patients correctly named their drugs with the correct dosing schedule. Four (4) weeks after the intervention, 826
(82.2%) prescriptions were reviewed from 896 patient encounters. Seventy (7.8%) encounters were none drug encounters. The WHO drug use indicators were then assessed.

This study also confirms that low proportions of drugs are prescribed as generics (49.5%) in Nigeria.

The effect of the intervention was negligible as there were little or no statistically significant changes from the baseline survey results.