

MMA: More stringent checks on e-prescription needed

By [Amalia Azmi](#) - January 17, 2025 @ 8:10pm



Malaysian Medical Association president Datuk Dr Kalwinder Singh Khaira is calling for more stringent checks on and audits of e-prescription practices. Pic courtesy of MMA

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Medical Association is calling for more stringent inspections on and audits of e-prescription practices, particularly in the dispensing of long-term medications.

This, said its president Datuk Dr Kalwinder Singh Khaira, was to ensure compliance with the Poisons Act and protect patient safety.

He said there were concerns over calls from some third-party administrators for a shift to pharmacy-based dispensing of medications via e-prescriptions.

He said the association was deeply troubled by reports indicating that some patients are receiving medications without valid prescriptions from their treating doctors, a potential violation of the Poisons Act.

"According to existing regulations, prescriptions should only be reissued for a limited period, typically up to two additional supplies.

"However, MMA has identified instances where prescriptions for follow-up medications are being issued by online doctors who have never physically examined or treated the patient.

"This practice not only contravenes regulatory requirements but also undermines the principles of safe and effective patient care," he said in a statement today.

Dr Kalwinder said non-communicable diseases require ongoing monitoring, clinical assessments and appropriate adjustments to treatment plans as per established clinical guidelines.

He said the indiscriminate issuance of e-prescriptions without proper medical oversight poses significant risks, particularly for patients with chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases.

"MMA is particularly concerned about the increasing prevalence of complications linked to poor NCD management, such as end-stage kidney disease, which has seen a worrying rise in recent years.

"The lack of adequate supervision in long-term medication management may further escalate the burden of chronic diseases, leading to worsening patient outcomes and increased healthcare costs," he said.

Dr Kalwinder said strict enforcement of the Poisons Act is important to ensure that patient care is not compromised by improper dispensing practices.

"While technology and digital healthcare solutions can enhance efficiency, they must be implemented responsibly and in full compliance with existing healthcare laws.

"MMA calls for urgent action from the authorities to safeguard public health and uphold the integrity of the nation's healthcare system.

"MMA stands ready to engage with the relevant stakeholders, including the Health Ministry and regulatory bodies, to discuss measures that will strengthen patient safety in the digital healthcare landscape," he said.