



## **Halal Pharmaceuticals: the challenges and practices of Halal products**

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The world demands for halal products, covering foods, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, services and other products will continue to grow with the increase in global population, particularly for the Muslim community. It is forecasted that in the year of 2030, Muslim will cover 27% of the global population. Thus, the halal industry is the fastest growing global business across the world. The global halal commodity becomes a huge market of USD 2.3 trillion (excluding banking) and is expected to grow each year.

In 2016, Indonesia, the world biggest number of Muslim country, declared a new policy that all the products enter or distributed in Indonesia must be halal certified. This policy will be implemented in stages, started from food products, followed by cosmetics and pharmaceutical products. This policy will force the industries to comply with halal requirement to get their products halal certified.

Several challenges are faced by the pharmaceutical industries in implementing halal requirement, including difficulties in getting halal source of raw materials and shortage of workforce that understands syariah requirements and implementing this theoretical knowledge into actual industrial practice. In monograph of animal origin materials listed in British Pharmacopeia (2012), found that 28%, 14 % and 58% of raw materials were categorized under red list, green list and grey list, respectively, while in Japan Pharmacopeia (2011) found that 15%, 11% and 74% fall in similar category, respectively. Red list refers to the only pig source raw materials (Haram), green list is to the only bovine source raw materials (Halal, subject to the slaughtering method), and grey list refers to the both source of raw materials (can be Halal or Haram).

From the perspective of pharmaceutical care, the understanding of patient's rights and patient's compliance are part of issues need to address with regard to Halal pharmacy products. Furthermore, managing halal products in hospital and community pharmacy is another challenge need to be resolved. A standard operational procedure in handling halal products with all the current constraint needs to be developed by the relevant healthcare professionals with full consideration of fatwa ruling by Islamic authorities.

Halal research centers in universities, including ICHLAS have taken initiative in finding replacement of non-halal raw materials, development of halal analysis method, as well as developing the awareness of halal concept and producing the expertise in halal industries. The program includes the development of the halal training modules across the universities, establishment of halal research center, and development of halal executive program. The holistic initiative of combining syariah knowledge with technology will benefit the halal industries, education system, Muslim communities and consumers.