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Studies on the stability of expired pharmaceuticals in the health sector

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Analysis to the literature supports the assumption that the shelf life of many drugs, seems to be "longer" than their expiration dates, leading to unnecessary waste, higher pharmaceutical costs, and possibly reduced access to necessary drugs for some patients. This is of most significance for the current situation in Libya with the political unrest and civil war that divides the Country, and as a direct consequence of this turmoil, shortage of essential drugs occurs. In Benghazi Medical Center (BMC) exists large amounts of essential medicines past its expiration dates? And there is dire need for such medicines in management of in-patients and out-patients. Hence, the aim of this

study was to test the stability of expired-medicines at the BMC, and possibly extends its shelf-life. Four products were selected containing: atenolol, paracetamol, amoxicillin, and the highly expensive combination of sofosbuvir and ledipasvir. And they were expired for a period between 6 months and a year. The evaluation tests included measurement of disintegration time, dissolution rate and assay of active content of active ingredient(s) using official methods. The results showed that all of the tested products are still within the acceptance criteria for all the tests, and the products can still be used for therapeutic uses.

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