

big story

40 violations found at pharmacies

The National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) conducts close to 600 inspections in pharmacies here during 2018 finding several violations mostly in the pricing and selling of drugs.



Representative picture. (Courtesy of the National)

TDT | Manama
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Around 40 violations were found last year at the pharmacies in Bahrain related to selling, pricing and licensing of medicines.

The findings follow close to 600 inspection visits by the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) inspection team in 2018.

One of the most common types of violation detected during NHRA inspection was selling related. The authority spotted 15 of them.

Altogether NHRA spotted five types of violations which were recurring.

The second most detected violation was related to Pricing. NHRA found eight during visits.

Others are pharmacy set up violations (5), licensing violations (6) and temperature/humidity/fridge violation (6).

Pharma count jump

The NHRA said there are currently 263 licensed pharmacies in the Kingdom, an increase of 50 from the prior year.

In 2017, there were 213 pharmacies.

Of the 263 pharmacies, 59 are associated with hospitals, while 204 are private pharmacies.

Most in Capital

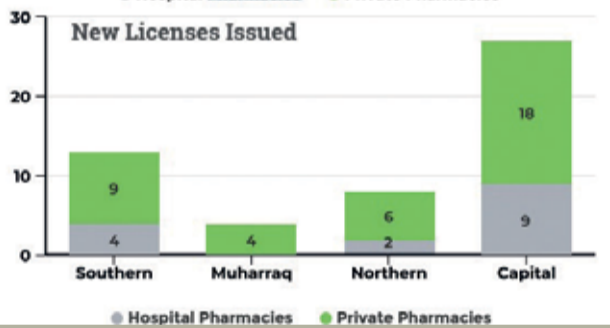
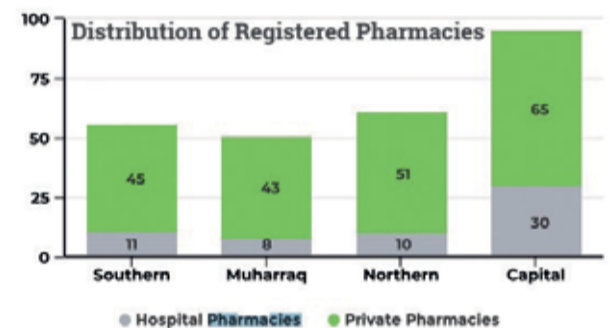
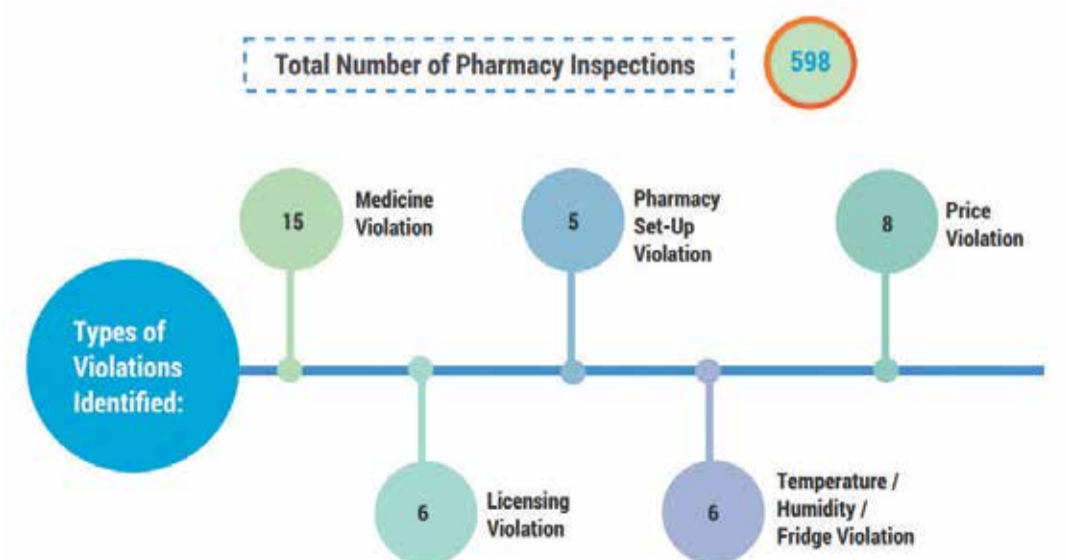
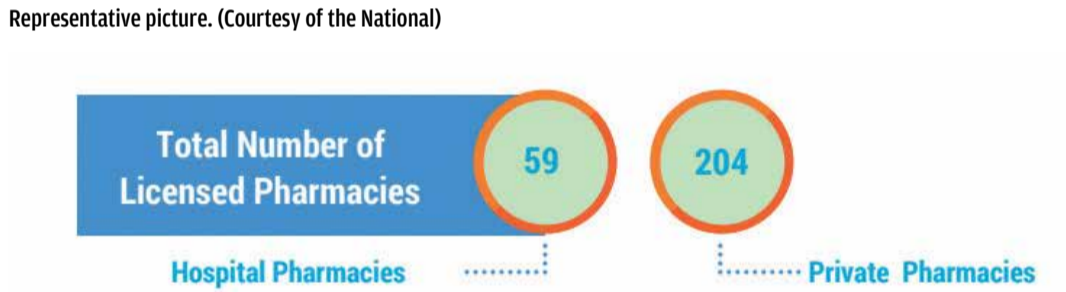
According to NHRA, Capital Governorate witnessed the most number of opening in the year 2018. As of now, there are a total of 95 pharmacies in the Capital.

Closely following is Northern Governorate in the second spot with 61 pharmacies. Southern has 57 and Muharraq 51.

New openings

Capital Governorate also enjoys the record for new pharmacy openings in 2018.

A total of 27 new pharmacies



Online registration on way



The National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) said plans are on the anvil to develop a system for registering pharmaceutical products online. "This year the focus is on developing an online Pharmaceu-

tical Products Registration and Management system," NHRA revealed. The move, NHRA said, will facilitate hassle-free registration and customs release of pharmaceutical products, along with the DUR system.

NHRA cited the development

of the 'Drug Utilization Review System' (DUR) as one of the top achievements in the department of pharmaceutical regulations in 2018.

"The DUR system plays a key role in the National Health Insurance sector by tracking all

pharmaceutical products imported and utilized in the Kingdom," the NHRA said adding: "A total of 3170 medicines have been registered and a temporary registration has been granted to 3391 pharmaceutical products during the year."