

# Completeness of handwritten outpatient prescriptions in community settings in Albania

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I herewith declare that I have:

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# Introduction

- In many countries, drug prescribing is still a handwritten process.
- The quality of handwritten medication orders plays a crucial role in achieving the desired therapeutic goal.
- The aim of this study is to evaluate the completeness and legibility of handwritten outpatient prescriptions in community pharmacy settings in Albania.

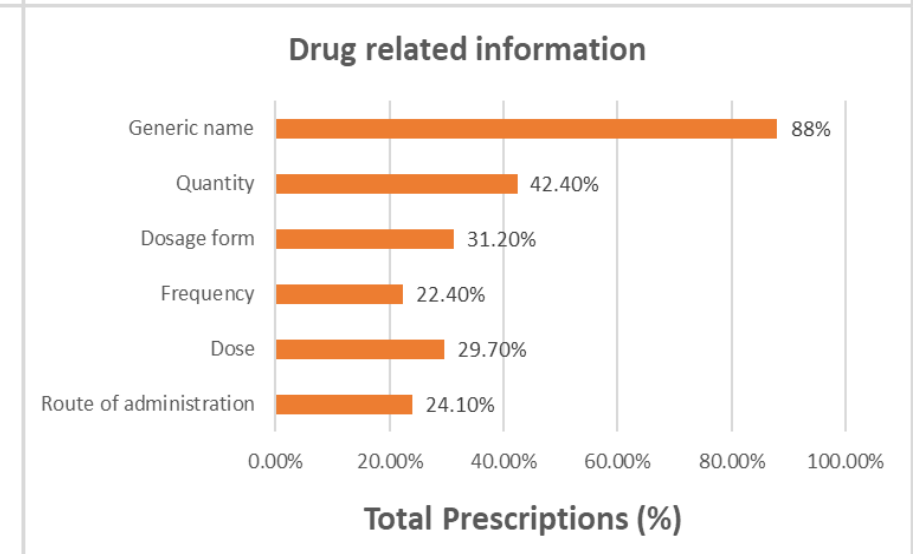
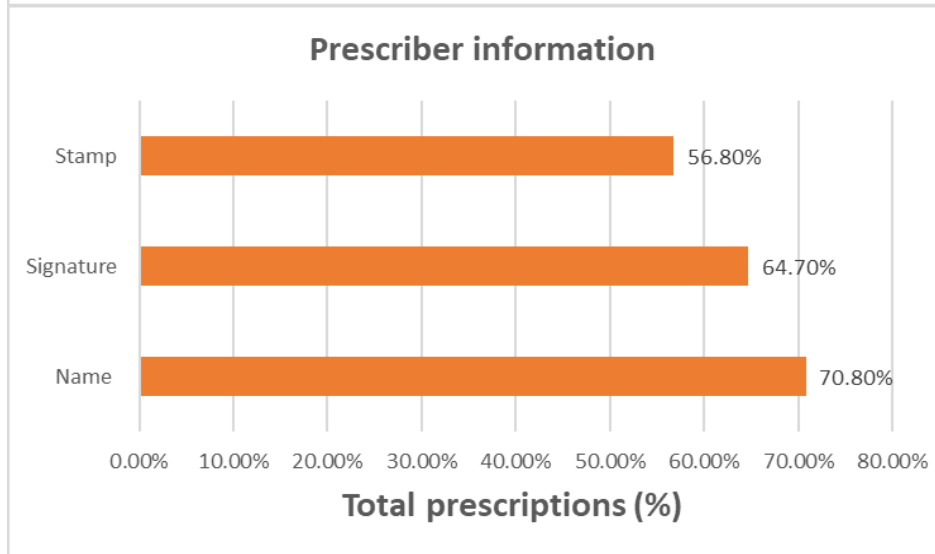
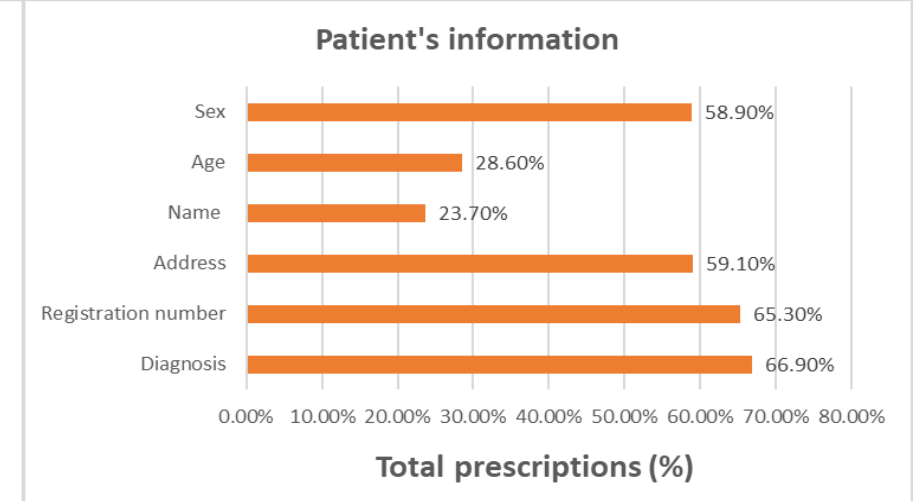
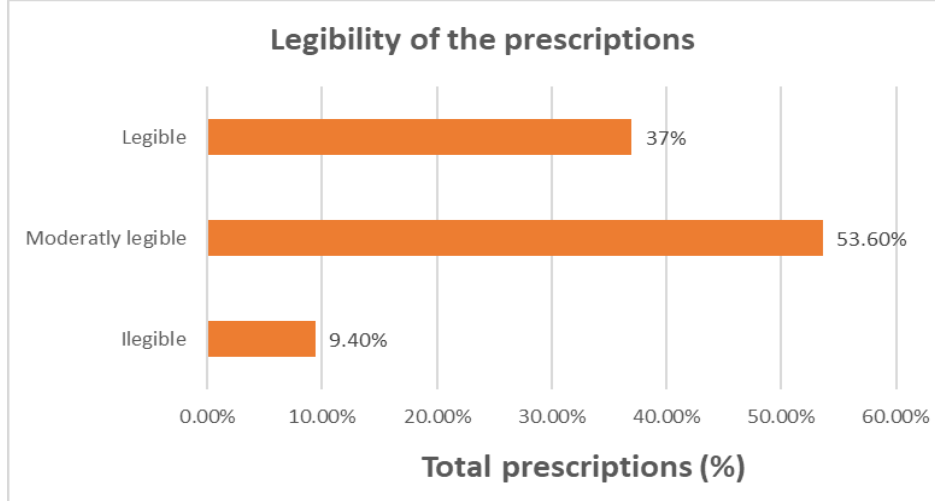
# Methods

- The research was conducted among community pharmacies of ten different cities in Albania.
- The handwritten medical orders were collected using random sampling technique during a time period of 8 consecutive weeks (April 5, 2021 to May 30, 2021).
- The collected prescriptions were checked for **legibility** and **completeness**.



# Results

City	Number of prescriptions (%)
City No. 1	137 (25.6)
City No. 2	58 (10.8)
City No. 3	34 (6.4)
City No. 4	24 (4.5)
City No. 5	28 (5.2)
City No. 6	50 (9.3)
City No. 7	48 (9)
City No. 8	47 (8.8)
City No. 9	55 (10.3)
City No. 10	54 (10.1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>535</b>



## Conclusion

This study revealed that there is a need for improvement regarding the level of completeness and legibility of handwritten outpatient prescriptions in Albania. The implementation of an electronic prescribing system in the outpatient setting and mandatory legal requirements for the prescription process can substantially contribute in improving the prescription writing process.

