

## ISSUANCE OF APPROVAL IN PHARMACY INTERNSHIP MONITORING

Dr. Ndao Y.\*

\*Laboratory of Pharmacy Galenic and Legislation, Faculty of Medicine, Pharmacy and Odontology (F.M.P.O.),  
University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar (U.C.A.D.). PB 5005, Dakar-Fann, Senegal.

\*Corresponding Author: Dr. Ndao Y.

Associate Professor, Laboratory of Pharmacy Galenic and Legislation, Faculty of Medicine, Pharmacy and Odontology (F.M.P.O.), University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar (U.C.A.D.). PB 5005, Dakar-Fann, Senegal.

Article Received on 23/09/2019

Article Revised on 13/10/2019

Article Accepted on 02/11/2019

## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** In Senegal, studies for obtaining a doctorate in pharmacy are supervised, <sup>[2]</sup> and the student is followed during his training by an approved supervisor. However, most students are not supervised by accredited pharmacists. The purpose of our work was to study importance of accreditation issuance in pharmacy internship monitoring. **Materials and Method:** This is a retrospective study carried out from January 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>th</sup>, 2017, on approvals issued by rectorial orders, from 1991 to 2016. We carried out a literature review completed by an interview with pharmacists, and members of the college of pharmacy. Data were analyzed using Excel software 2008 version. **Results:** From 1991 to 2016, a total of 373 licenses were issued by rectorial order, including two hundred and ninety eight (298) for Senegalese pharmacists and seventy five (75) for foreign pharmacists. Applications for approval were processed without college of pharmacy advice, and no approvals granted during the period was renewed after 5 years. In addition, in Dakar region, seventy (70) staff members had received trainees in 2016, without first obtaining approval from the institution. **Conclusion:** Accreditation as a training supervisor is mandatory for pharmacy internship monitoring. College of pharmacists and internship advisors are not involved, and most pharmacists in Dakar region receive trainees without prior approval.

**KEYWORDS:** Supervisor - Internship - Pharmacy - Approval - Monitoring – Accreditation.

## INTRODUCTION

Evolution of pharmacy profession, and complexity of dispensing act make the profession a field of requirements. These new developments requires pharmacists to have both good initial and continuing training, to ensure their public health mission.

In France, the objective of training to obtain a doctorate of pharmacy diploma is to acquire practical knowledge, by internships and professional training adapted to the curriculum of the student.<sup>[1]</sup> In Senegal the organization of studies for obtaining the Pharmacy doctorate is regulated. Courses are organized in lectures, tutorials, practical work and / or internships in health structures approved by the institution.<sup>[2]</sup> Indeed, teaching includes a training course;<sup>[3]</sup> and to be admitted, candidates must have approved the course.<sup>[4]</sup> Student receives a training and pharmacy holder accredited as a supervisor, must accompany him.

However, it has been found that most pharmacy students do their internships in pharmacies whose holders are not accredited. The question is whether accreditation is mandatory for any tutor before mentoring a student trainee? Will students supervised by non-accredited holders validate their internship? Have approvals issued been renewed? To answer to these questions, the purpose

of our work was to study accreditation issue in pharmacy internship monitoring of fifth-year students in Senegal.

## I. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

University Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) created in 1957 and inaugurated in 1959, is named after the historian and anthropologist Cheikh Anta Diop. It's the oldest university of black French-speaking Africa, but also the main University of Dakar in Senegal. It includes autonomous faculties, higher national vocational schools, faculties of education institutes and research institutes universities. Our study was conducted at the Faculty of Medicine, Pharmacy and Odontology, particularly within the education service. It is a public institution with legal personality and financial autonomy, headed by an elected dean, assisted by two assessors and a chief administrative officer.<sup>[5]</sup> Within this option, there are three sections structured as follows:

a) Medicine section which currently have three departments:

- Department of Medicine and Medical Specialties;
- Department of Surgery and Surgical Specialties;
- Department of Medical Biology and Functional Explorations.

b) Odontology section is made up of the department of the same name.

c) Pharmacy section currently has two departments:

- Department of Applied Biological and Pharmaceutical Sciences;
- Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Physical and Chemical.

All these sections share the school managed by a head of department responsible for student enrollment, coordination lessons, assessments, defenses and issuance of diplomas, and especially receiving records approval applications as training.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHOD

The study material consists essentially of the following tools:

- Rectorial orders granting approvals as supervisor
- Pharmacy Student Guide and Pharmacy Initiation Course

It's a retrospective study from January 1 to July 31, 2017, conducted on approvals issued from 1991 to 2016. We performed a literature search on rectorial orders on

approvals granted to pharmacies holders concerned. Also, interviews were conducted with owners and members of the college of Pharmacists. Data collection was mainly made from rectorial orders by direct observation of approvals issued to concerned pharmacists. This literature review was completed with a meeting with holders and members of the college. Data were analyzed by using Excel software 2008 version.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Issuing of approvals at central level

Applications for approval training supervisors are submitted to the Faculty of Medicine of Pharmacy and Odontology. After applications processing, a provisional order is delivered as an internship supervisor to pharmacists concerned, in order to receive students enrolled in the Pharmacy section of the Faculty of Medicine, Pharmacy and Odontology. From 1991 to 2016, 373 licenses were issued, including 298 for Senegalese pharmacists and 75 for foreign pharmacists (fig.1).

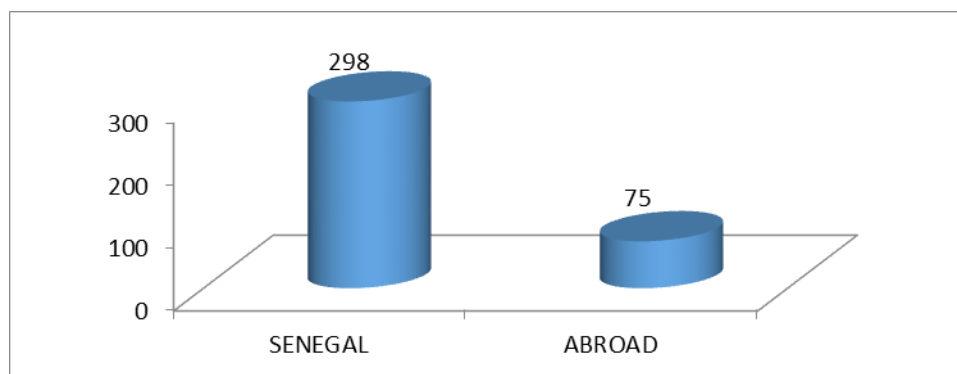


Figure 1: Distribution of approvals granted.

### 1.1 Issuance of approvals to Senegalese pharmacists

Our results show that 373 approvals as internship supervisor were issued to pharmacists concerned from 1991 to 2016; including 298 Senegalese and 75 to foreigners. In terms of administrative procedure, our results are in line with Decree No. 62-1393 of 26 November 1962 as amended, regarding terms of accreditation issue as internship supervisor.<sup>[6]</sup>

However, regarding number of approvals issued for the aforementioned period, it is very low compared to Senegal's pharmaceutical demography; where pharmacies number increased from 852 in 2009 to 1080 in 2015.<sup>[7]</sup> It means that unregistered pharmacists will have hosted trainees during this period without prior approval. It could be explained by holders misunderstanding rules, who merely ask trainees concerned, to make the process for them. There is also the fact that this professional duty is not clearly stated in the code of conduct in article 49 which is limited to involvement of pharmacists in training; without insisting on the need for prior approval to reception of trainees in pharmacy.

Our results are contrary to provisions of Decree No. 88-1395 of October 15, 1988. Also in Senegal, Rector delivers approvals without College of Pharmacists opinion. In addition, among pharmacists approved as internship supervisor, it is difficult to assert that all of them have met criteria set, including justification for three years of pharmacist practice, and at least one year as a pharmacist titular. However, our results are similar to those of France in the same field.<sup>[8]</sup> In fact, to receive trainees, pharmacists must be qualified as internship supervisor training. They are approved in this capacity by decision of the director of pharmaceutical training and research unit, after consulting the regional college of pharmacists council. They must prove five years of pharmacies exercise, with at least two years as holders. In addition, the internship supervisor must sign a learning agreement and a commitment charter with the director of pharmaceutical training and research unit, who will set educational goals as well as practical arrangements of the course.<sup>[9]</sup>

The approval must be renewed every five years. It's revocable by motivate decision of the director of

pharmaceutical training and research unit. The internship advisors are appointed by the director of pharmaceutical trainings and research unit. They take part in the follow-up of internship students and the validation exam. Moreover, in France, College of Pharmacists are actively involved in the pharmacy courses. They are systematically consulted when there is an application for accreditation as internship advisor, and their opinion is forwarded to the director of pharmaceutical training and research unit.<sup>[9]</sup>

In Senegal, among approvals issued during the period, none received college of pharmacists opinion. This could

be explained by a misunderstanding of texts first, and secondly, absence of a training Council at the college of pharmacists institution.

### 1.2 Distribution of approvals abroad

As for approvals issued to foreign pharmacists, results are illustrated in figure 2.

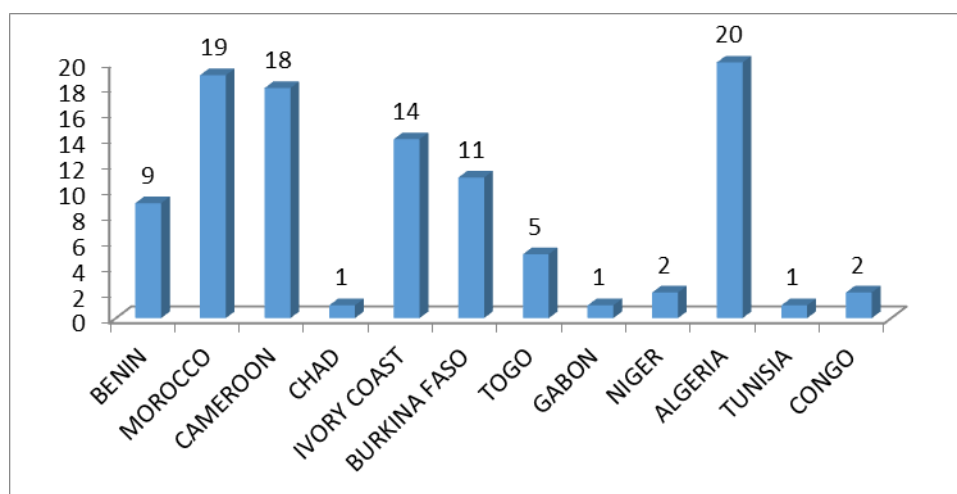


Figure 2: Distribution of approvals abroad.

Regarding issuance of approvals abroad, it is clear that Morocco has received the largest number of approvals during the period (19), followed by Cameroon (18), Ivory Coast (14), Burkina Faso (11), Benin (9) and Togo (5). The percentage of other countries is insignificant, and estimated between one (1) and two (2). This situation could be explained by the fact that there is

cooperation between these countries and Senegal, and especially by the quality of training delivered by University of Dakar.

### 1.3 Distribution of approvals by region

Regarding approvals granted in regions, results are illustrated in figure 3.

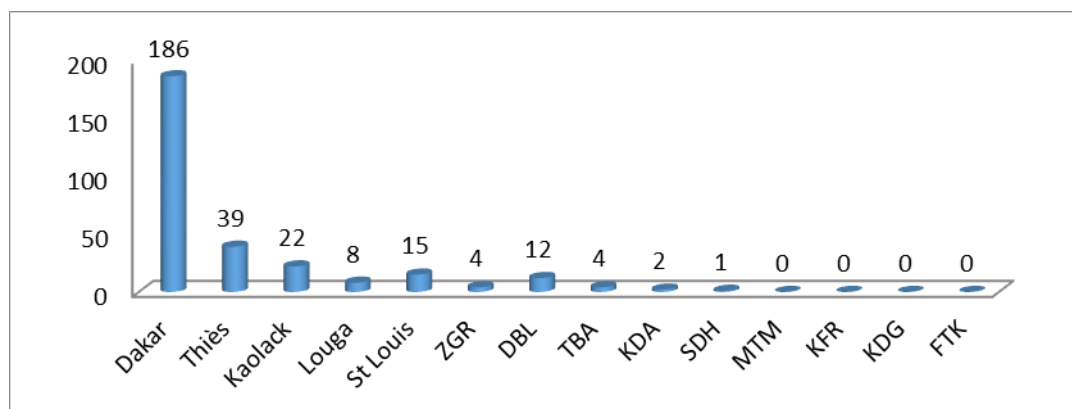


Figure 3: Distribution of approvals by region.

Distribution of approvals by region shows that pharmacists in some regions like Matam, Kaffrine, Kedougou and Fatick do not have one. However, the following regions are more endowed. This is the case of Dakar (186), Thies (39), Kaolack (22), Saint Louis (15),

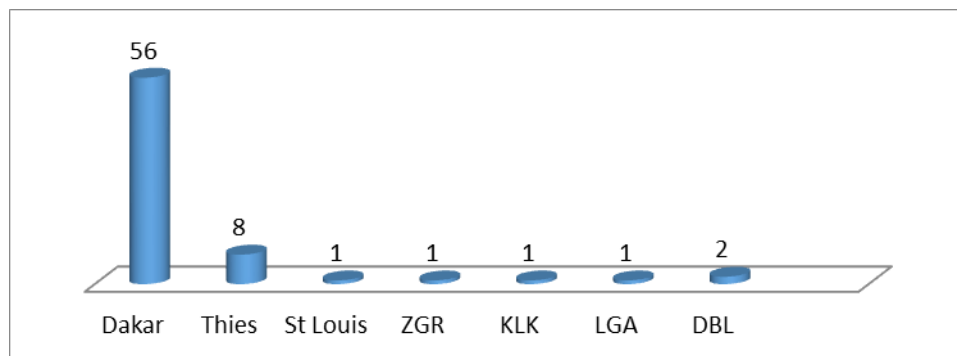
Diourbel (12). It appears from our results in 2016, that 155 pharmacy students were hosted on the whole territory. Of these, seventy seven (77) did not have a license. Also, none of the trainees was supervised in his

place of training by advisors appointed by the Rector of the University.<sup>[10]</sup>

institution. Results obtained are shared according to areas in figure 4 below.

#### 1.4 Distribution of pharmacists without accreditation

We identified in 2016, seventy (70) pharmacists who received trainees without prior approval of the



**Figure 4: Distribution of unregistered holders in 2016.**

In 2016, we identified 70 holders who received trainees without prior approval of the institution. This would be linked to the failure by certain holders of their professional duties, but also the lack of involvement of internship advisors in the management of pharmacy internship.

#### 2. Renewal of approvals

Among a total of 373 approvals issued, none were renewed. This is an obligation which is a prerequisite for accreditation renewal as internship supervisor, since the approval decisions are revocable and must be renewed every five years.<sup>[11]</sup> Pharmacist must update their knowledge regularly and be held in the fact that many regulatory and technical changes which affect their daily practice. This situation could be explained by the fact that, in Senegal, renewal of accreditation is not a requirement at the college of pharmacists.

#### CONCLUSION

Accreditation as a training supervisor is mandatory for internship supervision. In Dakar region, most pharmacists receive trainees without prior approval. Despite the fact that all accreditation application files fulfilled conditions, the College of pharmacists opinion was not required. Furthermore, on all approvals granted during the period, none has been renewed.

It would be useful in the future for the College of pharmacists and internship advisors to be more involved in monitoring trainees in accordance with standards.

#### REFERENCES

- Articles 1; 2; 5; 7; 8; 13; 16; 17 of the Decree of 8 April 2013 on education system for doctorate of pharmacy degree in France.
- Law 2011-05 of March 30, 2011. Decree N ° 2015-450 fixing the regime of studies and examinations of doctorate of pharmacy degree.

- Article 10 of Decree No. 88-1395 of 15 October 1988 on the creation of Doctorate of Pharmacy degree.
- Article 15 of Decree No. 88-1395 of 15 October 1988 establishing the doctorate of Pharmacy degree. Article 17 of Decree No. 88-1395 of 15 October 1988 on the creation of Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from the State.
- Decree No. 70-1135 of 13 October 1970 as amended.
- Initiation Course Guide: After the first year and validated prior to enrollment in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Pharmacy. Version 1. Introduction, p.1.
- Miss Têkô Vignon Cindy Vanessa Essénam WILSON. Study of pharmaceutical demography in Senegal from 2009 to 2015. PhD thesis in pharmacy presented on July 19, 2016. Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, 2016, N ° 100.
- Order of 8 April 2013 on the study regime for Doctorate of Pharmacy degree. Chapter III, Articles 20-21. Official Journal of the French Republic of April 26, 2013. Text 20 of 157.
- Role of the College of pharmacists councils in pharmacy internship. <http://www.order.pharmacien.fr/Nos-missions/Le-role-de-l-Ordre-in-les-missions-de-sante-publique/Les-maitres-de-stage> (website viewed on March 20, 2017).
- Article 19 of the Decree N ° 88-1395 of October 15, 1988 creating the Doctorate of Pharmacy degree.
- Article 18, al. 2, 3 of Decree No. 88-1395 of October 15, 1988 establishing the doctorate of pharmacy degree.