

Review article

Implementation of Halal Product Guarantee in Dental Health Services in Islamic Hospital

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Abstract

Islamic hospitals have the responsibility for implementing sharia service standards in all aspects, including in dental health services. As consumers, Muslim patients demand a certainty of halal status on materials used in dental treatment. Many reports said that the materials are not all halal-guaranteed. Islamic hospitals are expected to meet the needs of the Muslim community for sharia-compliant dental health services. For Muslim patients, the halal status of medical products is clearly a concern. Therefore it is necessary to protect Muslim patients when they want to use dental health services in Islamic hospitals. This is in line with a number of regulations, such as the law on hospital, the law on consumer protection, and the law on halal product guarantee. The halal product guarantee is important and feasible to be implemented to dental health services in Islamic hospitals because of the demands of Islamic hospitals to apply sharia standards and the needs of Muslim patients.

Keywords: sharia hospital, Muslim patients, Muslim physician, halal dental product

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Introduction

Indonesia is a country with the largest Muslim population in the world, which is more than 200 million people. Although Indonesia is not a country based on a particular religious law, the law still guarantees the independence of every citizen to practice his or her religious teachings, including when seeking or undergoing treatment in hospital. There are more than 2,500 hospitals throughout Indonesia. Among them are about 40 hospitals that make Islamic hospital as the name of the institute, but only 2 hospitals that already meet the standards of sharia, as defined by MUKISI (Islamic Health Institution Network of Indonesia) [1, 2]. Currently the existence of hospitals that apply the principles of sharia in providing protection to all Muslim patients is increasingly becoming a necessity.

Implementation of sharia standards in Islamic hospitals should cover all areas of service in hospitals, including dental services. One of the dental health problems is the low utilization of

dental health services in the hospital. Based on the report of the Indonesian Ministry of Health, the number of people with dental health problems who received treatment is still very low, as much as 8.1%. Among them, those who received treatment from general dentists and dentist specialists were 5.4% and 46.6%, respectively. While others get treatment from dental nurses and others. [3]

One of the factors that influence the utilization of dental health services is the quality of service provided by the health facilities, including hospitals. On the other hand, the psychological factors (including beliefs and attitudes toward the quality of service) of the patient also affect the behavior of utilizing services. Quality of service can be assessed through the quality of goods used [4]. In dental health services, the use of dental materials is an integral part of any dental treatment. For example, dental restoration procedures that require composite materials, dental implant procedures that require the bone graft, or

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even post-extraction complication management procedures that require sponge.

So far the halal status of materials used in dental health services in hospitals are still relatively unclear. In fact, some of these materials are reported to contain elements of pigs. This has caused anxiety for Muslims who want to seek dental treatment. Illegal material is considered harmful to the body so its use is prohibited, except in an emergency. The dentist as an operator is expected to have sufficient knowledge of the characteristics of the material used so that the treatment is safe for the patient [5-6].

In order to provide comfort, safety, and also halal status certainty for the Muslim community who consumes and uses the products, the Law on Halal Product Guarantee is made. Products that enter, circulate, and traded in the territory of Indonesia shall be certified [7-8]. As a health facility that implements sharia standards, Islamic hospitals desperately need to apply a halal product certification for every material used, including dental materials. The purpose of this study is to know the importance and feasibility of applying halal product guarantee in dental health service in Islamic hospital.

Methods

Journal articles finding in English published over the last 10 years was conducted using the keywords: “sharia hospital”, “Muslim patient”, “Muslim physicians”. Then the articles were reviewed to determine how important and how feasible the implementation of halal product guarantee in dental health services in Islamic hospitals is.

Results

We obtained a total of 8 English language journal articles published in the last 10 years using search terms: articles : “sharia hospital”, “Muslim patient”, “Muslim physicians”, and variations. The articles represent three aspects, namely Islamic hospital, the Muslim doctor, and the Muslim patient.

Table 1. Literature review result

No	Aspect	Related Journal Articles
1	Islamic hospital	Dargahi (2011), Izadi (2013), Sharrif (2016)
2	Muslim physician	Padela (2008), Arawi (2010), Rahman (2016)
3	Muslim patient	Padela (2011), Mustafar (2013)

Discussion

More recently, the issue of applying halal product guarantees in dental health services in hospitals has raised questions of both urgency and feasibility. For the Muslim community, the halal or haram affairs are closer to spiritual needs, while the health care providers (doctors) in the hospital cannot be separated from medical ethics [9].

As an institution of Islamic health services, Islamic hospitals have a role in meeting these things, especially in order to meet the needs of consumers. This study addresses the issue from the point of view of healthcare facilities (Islamic hospital) as providers, Muslim doctors as operators, and Muslim patients as consumers, assuming these three aspects are interconnected, forming the basis of halal product guarantee implementation in health services (Figure 1), especially dental health services in Islamic hospitals.

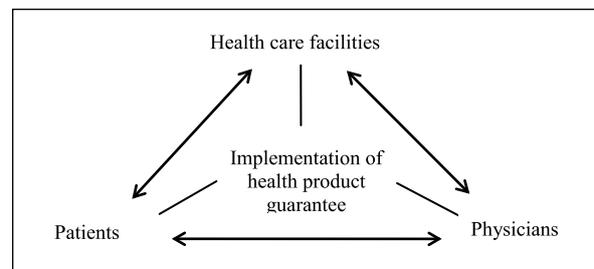


Figure 1. Model concept of implementation of halal product guarantee in health services

The first aspect is the Islamic hospital as a provider. We found at least 3 things that make the hospital as the basis of the importance of implementation of halal product guarantee in dental health services in Islamic hospitals, namely:

1. Obligation to conduct medical ethics

Medical ethics should consider the religious beliefs of the patient in every procedure. Therefore, the hospital has a responsibility to always paying attention to Muslim patients’ expectations of health services based on Islamic principles [10]. In dental health services, the patient’s expectation may be a gender equivalence between the patient and the dentist providing the service, and the use of dental materials that are clearly halal.

2. Obligation to provide quality service

Lack of standards or wrong use of drugs or materials will lead to fall in quality of services and rise in costs which ultimately cause the hospital to descend within international ranking [11]. The use of dental materials that have been guaranteed halal will have an impact on the quality improvement of

the treatment undertaken by the patient.

3. Obligation to implement government policy

In Malaysia, there is a government institution developing a quality management system applicable across industries, including dental services [12]. In Indonesia, in the future, there will also be an institution with such duties as a mandate of law on halal product guarantee. By applying a halal product guarantee in dental health services in an Islamic hospital, it means that the hospital supports the government's policy.

The second aspect is the Muslim doctor as the operator. The role of this aspect of the importance of halal products guarantee is determined by a number of factors such as:

1. Obligation to practice the teachings of religion

Islam teaches every Muslim to be good to others. It is mentioned in one verse of the Qur'an that Muslims are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong and believing in Allah. These characteristics are individual and must also be owned by Muslim doctors [13]. For a Muslim dentist who possesses such characters, prioritizing the use of drugs and other medical substances that are clearly halal status are part of the implementation of that obligation.

2. Obligation to respect the patient's belief

A doctor should pay attention to the background of each patient. When dealing with Muslim patients, Muslim doctors should appreciate the patient's belief, including in terms of using halal medicines [14]. Dental patients often ask the halal status of the medical materials used by their dentist while undergoing treatment. If it is clear that a substance contains forbidden element, the patient is very likely to choose not to continue treatment there.

3. Obligation to obey the hospital policy

The Islamic hospitals generally encourage doctors to practice the Islamic medical care delivery in strict adherence to the sharia principles. An imperative policy is required for the hospitals to assure that they have qualified Muslim doctors who are practicing in the Islamic medical care [15]. If within the policy there are rules on the use of halal materials, Muslim doctors will try to choose a halal medicine for his patients. This also applies to dentists.

The third is Muslim patients. When we discuss

the importance of halal product guarantees in health services, there are 2 things related to the aspects of Muslim patients, namely:

1. Patient's belief in their religious values

Every good Muslim patient should choose and use halal goods or services [16]. In seeking and undergoing dental care, Muslim patients are usually critical of the procedure and materials used. When something is forbidden in it, Muslim patients will leave it, except in an emergency.

2. Perception about halal product in health service

Halal products are believed to be better for a Muslim patient, in terms of supporting the healing process. On the other hand, the lack of access to halal products in a healthcare settings may impede healing [17]. Muslim patients certainly expect adequate information about the content of the medical materials used in their dental treatment. The use of clear medical substances of halal status also enhances the comfort and protection of dental patients.

It is also important to know the feasibility of applying halal product guarantee in dental health services in Islamic hospital, since almost all of the material is still not halal certified, while the dental treatment still must be provided by the dentist in the Islamic hospital. In this case, according to the Fatwa of MUI, we need to consider whether it is an emergency or not [5, 7].

Ideally, dental health services in Islamic hospital should provide materials that have been halal certified by MUI. If the materials used are not yet halal certified, make sure that the material does not contain haram substances. However, in emergency

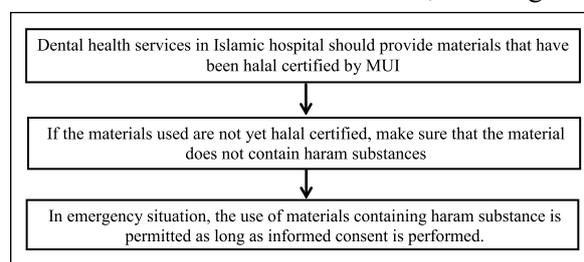


Figure 2. Rules of applying the halal products' guarantee in dental health services in Islamic hospitals situation, the use of materials containing haram substance is permitted as long as informed consent is obtained. The rules of implementation of halal product guarantee in dental health services in Islamic hospital can be seen in Figure 2.

Conclusion

Based on the above discussion, the authors can conclude that implementation of halal products guarantee in dental health services in Islamic hospitals is very important, viewed from hospitals, dentists, and patients' perspectives. It has challenges, especially the fact that almost most materials used in dental procedures are not halal certified. In this case, implementation of halal

product assurance on dental services in Islamic hospitals can be done by observing the priority principle (emergency or non-emergency).

Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest has been disclosed by the authors

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