

ſeknologi

Pharmaceuticals in Malaysia

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Unleashing Potentials Shaping the Future

# **Executive Summary**

- Multi-stakeholder study: Industry, HCPs, regulators and public
- Strong support for e-labelling due to:
  - Environmental impact
  - Ease of updates
  - Improved information accessibility
- Industry supports NPRA's QUEST3+ as a centralized, neutral platform, phased or voluntary rollout, with expansion to OTCs and supplements
- Among HCPs:
  - ~80% open or willing to adopt
  - Over 50% unfamiliar or inexperienced
- Public:
  - 92.8% willing to use e-labelling
  - Key concerns: digital literacy, internet/device access, privacy
- Target completion: 2026

## Industry Insights

# Industry Insights

- 10 PRHs from PhAMA (3), MOPI (5), MAPS (2)
- QUEST3+ preferred for *neutrality* and *efficiency*
- Benefits: reduced paper, faster variations, simplified logistics
- **Challenges**: ASEAN disharmony, infrastructure gaps, packaging transitions

## Industry Insights: Implementation and e-labelling experience

NPRA QUEST3+ system as landing page	<ul> <li>The NPRA QUEST3+ webpage provides a more streamlined post- approval workflow and is easier to maintain than managing individual landing pages hosted by PRHs.</li> <li>Several participants expressed a preference for <i>a neutral, regulator- hosted landing page,</i> noting concerns that company-managed pages could include marketing content.</li> <li>Drawing from their experience with Singapore's e-labelling model— where each PRH is responsible for developing its own landing page— participants highlighted that this approach adds complexity and requires additional steps during post-approval variation processes.</li> </ul>
Post-approval workflow following faster processes compared to traditional post- approval workflow	<ul> <li>All PRHs reported positive experiences with the variation approval process for e-labelling.</li> <li>One PRH noted that they are able to plan variation submissions with a <i>one-month buffer</i>, as approvals are generally granted within 2 to 3 weeks—despite the current limitation that bundle applications are not permitted.</li> </ul>

## Industry Insights: Implementation and e-labelling experience

Current Malaysia regulatory guidelines self-explanatory but lack ASEAN harmonisation	<ul> <li>Some ASEAN countries—such as Indonesia, Myanmar, and the Philippines—do not currently recognise e-labelling. Brunei is the exception, as it accepts the NPRA Malaysia QR code.</li> </ul>			
	<ul> <li>As a result, PRHs must take additional steps, such as preparing separate packaging that includes physical paper leaflets for markets that do not accept Malaysia's e-labelling format.</li> <li>Most PRHs stressed the need for <i>regulatory standardization across ASEAN</i> to <i>strengthen regional infrastructure</i> and ensure the <i>stability and interoperability</i> of platforms like QUEST3+.</li> </ul>			
All PRHs agreed that NPRA has been supportive and accommodating toward e- labelling initiatives.	<ul> <li>As Malaysia's national regulatory authority, NPRA has been supportive and has provided a suitable platform to advance e-labelling initiatives.</li> <li>The establishment of the e-labelling task force—comprising representatives from both government agencies and the PRH associations, in addition of the academia to conduct the independent e-labelling study to gather insights—<i>reflects NPRA's strong commitment to facilitating the successful implementation of e-labelling in the country.</i></li> </ul>			

# Industry Insights: Factors for success and challenges of e-labelling implementation

Success Factors	<ul> <li>Effective <i>inter-departmental communication</i> and <i>well-defined workflows</i></li> <li>Strong regulatory support, backed by existing infrastructure such as 5G internet and the QUEST3+ system</li> <li><i>Valuable learning experiences</i> drawn from countries with established e-labelling practices, such as Singapore and Japan</li> </ul>
Challenges	<ul> <li>Ongoing availability of paper PI stock, leading to a 6–12 month overlap period during transition</li> <li>Miscommunication and unclear execution plans across different levels of the organization</li> <li>Workflow changes that require adaptation and coordination across departments</li> </ul>

# Industry Insights: Factors for success and challenges of e-labelling implementation

Observed Benefits

- All PRHs reported a *reduction in paper usage*; however, not all have documented the cost differences before and after implementation.
- Reduced paper usage has led to smaller medication packaging, which in turn affects warehouse storage space and logistics
- PRHs highlighted *workflow simplification*, particularly the elimination of inserting paper leaflets and the recall process for outdated inserts
- Faster dissemination of updated product information was consistently cited, with some PRHs providing specific case examples

Handling of special populations

- The quality use of medicines (QUM) should be promoted through *targeted educational activities* aimed at enhancing both health and digital literacy among users.
- Several PRHs (particularly those with pharmacists among their teams) highlighted the importance of strengthening QUM efforts through digital channels and educational materials.
- Meanwhile, PRHs who are not healthcare professionals emphasized the role of healthcare institutions in *supporting HCPs* - such as community pharmacists and other HCPs—by ensuring they are equipped to guide patients and vulnerable groups in accessing and understanding elabelling information.

Expansion of product categories & voluntary or mandatory status

- All 10 PRHs identified over-the-counter (OTC) products as the next logical category for e-labelling expansion, followed by health supplements.
- On the question of whether e-labelling should be voluntary or mandatory, PRHs expressed a range of views (3 categories)
- Some supported a mandatory approach, while the majority preferred to keep it voluntary.
- A small number remained neutral, indicating that they would comply with any future amendments to the Act and are prepared to proceed should e-labelling become mandatory.

Perceived Impact on product e-labelling & Patient's safety

- The availability of online, regularly updated product leaflets has contributed to *improved safety, quality, and efficiency* for both healthcare professionals and patients, primarily by enabling faster access to the latest product information.
- One PRH provided a specific example of a product that was previously classified as cold-chain but had its storage condition updated to room temperature—an update that was quickly communicated through the e-labelling platform.
- While several PRHs mentioned potential cost savings from reduced paper usage, simplified workflows, and smaller product packaging (which also led to more efficient warehouse storage), *no comprehensive cost analysis* was provided at this stage.
- It was noted, however, that not all products experienced a reduction in packaging size.

Public/patient readiness and acceptability	<ul> <li>All PRHs agreed that the Malaysian public is generally digitally literate; however, they emphasized <i>the need to support this observation with evidence</i>.</li> <li>In addressing vulnerable populations—such as the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and the deaf-mute community—PRHs highlighted the importance of <i>empowering caregivers, with strong backing from NGOs</i> and <i>the broader healthcare community</i>.</li> <li>The need for institutional support was also emphasized, particularly in enhancing both health literacy and digital literacy to ensure equitable access to e-labelling information across all segments of the population.</li> </ul>

# Summary: Industry Insights on E-Labelling

### Regulatory Support & Collaboration

- •Strong endorsement from NPRA and use of QUEST3+ as a centralized platform
- •Formation of e-labelling task force with government and industry representatives, independent study to gather insights by the academia

### Perceived Benefits

- •Reduced paper use and packaging size
- •Simplified workflow (e.g., removal of leaflet insertion and recall processes)
- •Improved post-approval variation timelines and warehouse efficiency

### Implementation Experience

- •All PRHs report positive variation approval experiences (typically 2–3 weeks)
- •Real-time updates used in product reclassification (e.g., cold-chain to room temp)
- •Ongoing cost tracking by several PRHs

# Summary: Industry Insights on E-Labelling

## •Challenges & Limitations

- •Lack of ASEAN regulatory harmonization
- •Overlap of physical packaging in non-recognizing countries
- Internal miscommunication and digital infrastructure limitations in some companies

### • Future Directions

- •Strong support for inclusion of OTCs and supplements
- •Mixed views on mandatory rollout; most support voluntary with readiness to comply
- •Willingness to support institutional education (e.g., CPE for HCPs)
- Emphasis on role of HCPs and institutions in reaching vulnerable populations

## HCPs Insights

## Healthcare Professional Insights

### **171 Respondents**

Majority Pharmacists 49.7% with 11–20 years experience

### **Top Benefits**



#### **Adoption Readiness**



80% willing or conditionally willing 20% not yet willing

# Healthcare Professional Insights



- 56.4% reported being unfamiliar with the concept of e-labelling
- Among those who are familiar, the primary source of information - colleagues, previous use and media sources.
- Most healthcare professionals understood e-labelling as referring to medication use instructions, PIs, and RiMUP.

## Healthcare Professional Insights

- Understanding and Trust
- When asked who should be responsible for providing the content of electronic product information (ePI);
  - 51% respondents identified *pharmaceutical companies* (i.e., medication manufacturers) as the responsible body.
  - Another 36% respondents believed that responsibility should be shared between pharmaceutical companies and health authorities

roviding Pharmaceutical companies (Manufacturers 87 of the medication) responsible for Healthcare professionals (e.g., physicians, pharmacists) Health authorities/regulatory agencies (e. g., NPRA, FDA) Who do you think is A combination of pharmaceutical 61 companies and health authorities A combination of healthcare professionals and health authorities 20 40 60 80 100 0 Count

## Healthcare Professional Insights

#### **Perceived Benefits of E-Labelling (HCPs)**

- Easier updates to drug information (109 respondents rated 5/5)
- **Reduced environmental impact** (106 respondents rated 5/5)
- Improved accessibility to information (100 respondents rated 5/5)
- Improved patient education and compliance also rated positively, though with more varied responses
- Overall: Strong support for the practical and ecological value of e-labelling

#### Perceived benefits:



## Healthcare Professional Insights

### **Perceived Challenges/Concerns**

- Top concerns:
  - Patient resistance to technology (59 rated 4, 52 rated 5 – highest concern)
  - Technological barriers for HCPs (>70 rated 4 or 5)
  - Increased workload for providers (>70 rated 4 or 5)
- Moderate concerns: Data privacy and security

70 60 50 40 30 20 10 Technological barriers Data privacy and Reliability of Additional workload Patient resistance to for healthcare security issues information for healthcare new technology professionals providers

Perceived Challenges/Concerns of E-labelling

■0 ■1 ■2 ■3 ■4 ■5

#### Effect on communication and access among HCPs:







## Healthcare Professional Insights

#### Impact of E-Labelling on Practice (HCPs)

- **91%** agreed e-labelling improves patient access
- **55%** agreed that e-labelling significantly improves access as haring of product information among HCPs
- Only 19.88% have used e-labelling in practice; 73% have not
- Impact on workflow 78% respondents noted no impact on work processes
- **68%** agreed e-labelling positively impacts patient care





## Healthcare Professional Insights

#### Willingness to Integrate E-Labelling (HCPs)

- **52%** willing to integrate into practice
- 30.4% open with some reservations
- 3.51% not supportive at this time

#### **Top Reasons for Supporting E-Labelling**

- Environmental friendliness
- Easy access to updated information
- Access to additional resources (videos, FAQs)
- Other reasons: Greater convenience, better searchability than printed materials



Reasons for supporting/opposing:



# Healthcare Professional Insights

## Top Reasons for Opposition (low response overall)

- Preference for printed labels (4 respondents rated 5/5)
- Distrust in digital platforms
- Discomfort with using technology
- Concerns over internet/data access
- Lack of knowledge on how to use/access e-labelling

*Overall: Opposition was minimal compared to strong support for integration.* 



## Summary of Preliminary Findings (HCP Perspective)

- General outlook toward e-labelling is positive, but overall readiness remains moderate
- Over 50% unfamiliar or inexperienced, yet ~80% are open or willing to integrate in future
- Respondent profile:
  - Mostly pharmacists
  - **49.7%** have 11–20 years of experience (mid-career professionals)
  - Majority from **government hospitals/clinics**, especially in **Selangor**
- Top-rated benefits:
  - Easier updates to drug information (109 respondents)
  - Reduced environmental impact (106)
  - Enhanced accessibility (100)
  - Positive ratings also for **patient education and compliance**, though with more varied views
- Overall, findings reflect strong support for the practical and ecological value of e-labelling

#### **Top Concerns Among HCPs**

- Patient resistance to technology was the most agreed concern
  - 59 respondents rated it 4; 52 rated it 5
- Technological barriers for HCPs and additional workload also rated highly
  - Both received **70+ responses** at levels 4 or 5
- Moderate concerns:
  - Data privacy and security
  - Reliability of information

#### Willingness to Integrate E-Labelling

- **50%** willing to integrate into practice
- **30.41%** open with some reservations
- **3.51%** opposed integration at this time

#### **Top Reasons for Supporting E-Labelling**

- Environmental friendliness (97 respondents rated 5/5)
- Access to updated information (84 respondents)
- Availability of additional resources (e.g. videos, FAQs) 93 respondents
- Other widely supported reasons:
  - Greater convenience over printed materials
  - Better searchability in digital formats

# Preliminary Observations

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# Preliminary Observations

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#### **Reasons for Opposing E-Labelling (Minimal Responses)**

- Preference for printed labels/inserts
- Distrust in digital platforms for medical information
- Discomfort with using technology
- Some concerns about:
  - Internet/data access
  - Uncertainty on how to use/access e-labelling
- Overall: These concerns were minor compared to the strong overall support

## Public Insights

# Public Insights: Summary of Public Awareness and Perception of E-Labelling

#### Awareness:

- Only **45.5%** had heard of e-labelling prior to the survey
- Awareness was mostly acquired through social media, pharmacies, and media outlets

#### Usage and Willingness:

- Only 12.6% had used e-labelling
- However, 92.8% were definitely or probably willing to use it if available
- Willingness was driven by benefits such as **updated information**, **environmental impact**, and **digital convenience**

#### **Perceived Benefits:**

- **85%** cited timely access to information as the top benefit
- Other major benefits included environmental savings, ease of use for tech-savvy users, and medication safety

#### • Concerns:

- Main challenges were data privacy, digital literacy, device and internet access, and accessibility for vulnerable groups
- Enablers for Readiness:
- Public readiness could be strengthened through:
  - HCP support (66.5%)
  - Tutorials and training (61.7%)
  - Assurance of privacy/security (59.9%)
- Medication Adherence:
- 65.9% believed e-labelling could improve adherence
- Key mechanisms included:
  - Easier access to instructions
  - Clearer understanding of side effects/interactions



## Public Insights: Demographics

- Age Distribution
- Majority of respondents (75.4%) were aged 18–29 years
- Very limited participation from older adults, including those aged 60 and above (8.4%)
- Ethnicity
- Malay respondents made up 82.6%, followed by Chinese (12.6%), with other ethnic groups minimally represented
- Geographical Coverage (State)
- Responses were most concentrated in Kedah (30.5%)
- Other states like Johor, Perak, and Melaka were represented, but East Malaysia and smaller states had little to no coverage
- Education Level
- 97% of respondents had university or college education
- Very few had only secondary education or none at all

#### \*Note on Representativeness

- The current public survey sample **does not fully reflect the demographic diversity of Malaysia**.
- Key population groups are underrepresented, particularly: **older adults**, **ethnic minorities**, **respondents from East Malaysia and smaller states** and **individuals with lower education levels**
- These limitations suggest that while preliminary insights are valuable, further data collection is needed to ensure **equity and generalizability** in shaping e-labelling policy and implementation strategies.

# Public Insights: Awareness and General Knowledge to Assess Medicine Information

- The internet (e.g., Google) was the most frequently used source for written medicine information, selected by 85.6% of respondents.
- This was followed by package leaflets that come with medicines (66.5%) and leaflets from healthcare professionals (34.7%).
- Other sources such as MIMS, labels, or advice from HCPs were rarely selected (<1%).
- When asked why they chose their preferred source, the top three reasons were:
  - **Ease of access** (85.6%)
  - Ease of understanding (73.7%)
  - Trustworthiness (55.7%)
- Social recommendations and direct engagement with healthcare providers were cited much less frequently.

What is the most common source that you use to find written information about medicine? You can choose more than one answer. Apakah sumber yang...Anda boleh memilih lebih daripada satu jawapan. 167 responses



Why do you choose the source in the question above? You can choose more than one answer. Mengapakah anda memilih sumber yang tel...Anda boleh memilih lebih daripada satu jawapan. 167 responses



How often do you read the package leaflet that comes with your medications? Berapa k anda membaca risalah pakej yang disertakan dalam ubat-ubatan anda? <sup>167</sup> responses



State the reason why you never read the package leaflet that comes with the packaging. Nyatakan sebab anda tidak pernah membaca risalah pakej yang disertakan dengan bungkusan. 167 responses

I trust the healthcare provide				—70 (41.9%)
I find it too lengthy or time-c				-76 (45.5%)
The language used is difficul		-28 (16.8%)		
I rely on advice from family o	—16	6 (9.6%)		
I am familiar with the medica			-45 (26.9%)	
The font size or layout make		-26 (15.6%)		
I didn't know it contains usef	—8 (4.8%)			
I don't have the habit of read	—15	(9%)		
I prefer getting information fr		-34 (20	0.4%)	
I am not aware of its existen	-8 (4.8%)			
The content seems too tech	—12 (7.	2%)		
I believe it doesn't apply to	-9 (5.4%)			
I believe it doesn't apply to	—2 (1.2%)			
I often read it	—1 (0.6%)			
I read it	—1 (0.6%)			
Saya baca	—1 (0.6%)			

Why are you referring to the package leaflet? You can choose more than one answer. Mengapakah anda merujuk kepada risalah pakej? Anda boleh memilih lebih daripada satu jawapan. 167 responses



## Public Insights: Awareness and General Knowledge to Assess Medicine Information

#### Public Engagement with Package Leaflets (n = 167)

#### **Reading Frequency**

- 31.1% of respondents *always* read the leaflet when receiving a new medicine
- 29.3% read it sometimes, while 20.4% read it rarely
- 18.6% reported reading it often
- Indicates moderate engagement, with a significant portion referring to leaflets only occasionally

#### Top Reasons for Referring to Package Leaflets

- Dose and usage instructions 144 respondents (86.2%)
- Purpose of the medicine 131 (78.4%)
- Side effects 118 (70.7%)
- Other reasons: precautions/interactions (47.3%), pregnancy safety (30.5%)

#### **Top Reasons for Not Reading Leaflets**

- **Too long or time-consuming** 76 respondents (45.5%)
- Trust in HCPs' verbal explanation 70 (41.9%)
- Prefer to get information directly from HCPs 34 (20.4%)
- Others: difficult language (16.8%), unfamiliarity with the medicine (26.9%), small font/layout issues (15.6%)
- While most respondents engage with package leaflets at some level, **barriers such as** complexity, time constraints, and trust in verbal sources reduce full utilization.
- These insights highlight the need for **simplified, accessible, and digital-friendly formats** to enhance medicine information use—supporting the rationale for e-labelling.

## Public Insights: Awareness and General Knowledge of E-Labelling

How would you rate your understanding of what e-labelling involves? Bagaimanakah anda menilai pemahaman anda tentang perkara yang melibatkan e-pelabelan? 167 responses



Have you heard of e-labelling for medicines? Adakah anda pernah dengar tentang e-pelabelan untuk ubat-ubatan? \*E-labelling of medicines uses a Q...annya bergantung semata-mata pada label bercetak. 167 responses



If Yes, where did you first learn about e-labelling? Jika Ya, dimana anda pertama kali mendengar tentang e-pelabelan? 93 responses



#### • Awareness of E-Labelling

- Only 45.5% of respondents have heard of e-labelling for medicines
- A larger portion (54.5%) are not yet aware—indicating a significant awareness gap among the public
- Where Did They First Hear About E-Labelling? (n = 93 who said "Yes")
  - Social media 42 respondents (45.2%)
  - Pharmacies 35 respondents (37.6%)
  - Mainstream media (TV, Internet, newspapers) 27 respondents (29%)
  - Friends or family 22 respondents (23.7%)
  - Other sources (HCPs, lectures, booths, etc.) were each below 12%
- Despite willingness to adopt e-labelling, public knowledge remains limited, with most learning about it through social media and pharmacies
- Emphasizes the importance of targeted awareness campaigns via trusted healthcare settings and digital platforms

# Public Insights: Perceptions and Attitudes Towards E-Labelling

Have you ever used e-labelling for medicines? Pernahkah anda menggunakan e-pelabelan untuk ubat-ubatan? 167 responses

Yes / Ya
No / Tidak

Mavbe / Mungkin



If Yes, how easy was it to use the e-labelling system? Jika Ya, bagaimana mudahkah menggunakan sistem e-pelabelan? 78 responses



#### **Public Experience with E-Labelling**

#### **Usage Experience**

- Only 12.6% of respondents have ever used e-labelling for medicines
- 68.9% have never used it
- 18.6% were unsure or responded "maybe" → Indicates that real-world exposure to e-labelling remains low among the public

#### Ease of Use (among 78 users)

- 50% found it easy to use
- Only 10.3% found it very easy
- 29.5% remained neutral
- A small proportion found it *difficult (9%)* or *very difficult (1%)* → Suggests that once accessed, the system is **generally usable**, but
   not yet **intuitive or seamless** for all users
- Low usage rates despite high willingness highlight a **need for** *improved exposure and education*
- Moderate ease-of-use feedback signals opportunities to enhance **user interface, guidance, and onboarding** for broader acceptance

## Public Insights: Perceptions and Attitudes Towards E-Labelling

What do you perceive as the main benefits of e-labelling? Select all that apply. Apakah yang anda anggap sebagai faedah utama e-pelabelan? Pilih semua yang berkenaan. 167 responses



What challenges or concerns do you have regarding e-labelling? Select all that apply. Apakah cabaran atau kebimbangan anda mengenai e-pelabelan? Pilih semua yang berkenaan. 167 responses



#### **Top Perceived Benefits**

- Access to up-to-date medication information 85%
- Environmental benefits (e.g., paper reduction) 74.9%
- Convenience for tech-savvy users 62.9%
- Easier access for visually impaired individuals 41.3%)
- Enhanced safety and adherence –39.5%

#### **Top Concerns and Challenges**

- Data privacy and security –55.7%
- Difficulty using technology / low digital literacy –53.3%
- Unreliable internet access –52.7%
- Limited access to electronic devices –48.5%
- Inconvenience to persons with disabilities -46.7%
- Trustworthiness of digital information –41.9%
- Loss of printed labels –21%
- While the majority see *e-labelling as beneficial*, particularly for timely access to information and environmental reasons, concerns remain around *digital access*, *literacy, and trust*—especially among vulnerable populations.
- These findings reinforce the need for **hybrid access models**, **privacy safeguards**, and **public education** to support equitable e-labelling adoption.

## Public Insights: Readiness and Acceptance

Would you be willing to use e-labelling if it were available for your medicines? Adakah anda sanggup menggunakan e-pelabelan jika ia tersedia untuk ubat anda? 167 responses









Defintely / Tentu sekali
 Probably / Mungkin

Unsure / Tidak pasti

Probably Not / Tidak mungkin
 Definitely Not / Tidak sama sekali

🛦 1/2 🔻

If Probably or Definitely Not, why? Jika Tidak Mungkin atau Tidak Sama Sekali, mengapa? 65 responses



I prefer printed labels/inserts for easy...
 I don't trust digital platforms for medic...
 I am not comfortable using technology...
 I am concerned about internet/data ac...
 I mory about the reliability or accurac...
 I find e-labelling inconvenient compar...
 I am unaware of how to access or use...
 I am concerned about privacy/security...

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#### Willingness to Use E-Labelling

- **47.9%** would *definitely* use e-labelling if available
- 44.9% would probably use it
- Only a small fraction were unsure, unlikely, or unwilling
- **> Over 92%** of respondents show a **positive or conditional inclination** toward e-labelling adoption

#### Top Reasons for Willingness (n = 148 respondents)

- Access to updated information
- Environmentally friendly
- Convenience over printed materials
- Preference for digital formats and ability to access additional resources (e.g. videos, FAQs)
- Trust in accuracy and ease of storing/searching information

#### Top Reasons for Reluctance (n = 65 respondents who were unsure/unwilling)

- Preference for printed labels/inserts (24.6%)
- Lack of trust in digital platforms for health information
- Technology discomfort and concerns over internet/data access
- Concerns about privacy, reliability, and difficulty accessing or navigating e-labelling systems
- The public shows **strong openness** to adopting e-labelling, supported by environmental, informational, and usability benefits
- However, **familiarity with technology, trust in digital systems, and personal habits** continue to shape acceptance
- These insights support the need for a **dual-access strategy**, user training, and trust-building measures to ensure inclusive implementation

## Public Insights: Readiness and Acceptance

What factors would increase your readiness to use e-labelling? Select all that apply. Apakah faktor yang akan meningkatkan kesediaan anda untuk men...nakan e-pelabelan? Pilih semua yang berkenaan. 167 responses



#### **Top Enablers Identified:**

- Support from healthcare providers 111 respondents (66.5%)
- Tutorials or training on how to use e-labelling 103 respondents (61.7%)
- Assurance of data privacy and security 100 respondents (59.9%)
- Access to electronic gadgets or kiosks 68 respondents (40.7%)
- Availability of printed labels upon request 49 respondents (29.3%)
   Minimal Mentions:
- Good internet accessibility
- Controlled medicine (ubat kawalan) regulation
- General trust in digital systems
- Readiness to adopt e-labelling can be significantly enhanced through provider engagement, training, and privacy assurance
- Device access and print-on-demand options remain important for inclusive implementation, especially for vulnerable or digitally challenged users

# Public Insights: Impact on Medicine Adherence and Compliance

Do you believe that e-labelling could improve your adherence to medicines and their instructions? Adakah anda percaya bahawa e-pela...epatuhan anda kepada ubatan atau arahan ubatan? 167 responses



If Yes, how might e-labelling improve your medicine adherence? Select all that apply Jika Ya, bagaimanakah e-pelabelan boleh meningkatkan pematuhan ubat anda? Pilih semua yang berkenaan. 123 responses



- **65.9%** of respondents believe that e-labelling could help improve their adherence to medications
- 28.1% were unsure, while only 6% disagreed

Among those who believed it could improve adherence (n = 123):

- 78% cited easier access to instructions and dosage information
- 70.7% indicated that reminders and alerts would support better adherence
- 69.1% believed it would lead to a better understanding of side effects and drug interactions
- The majority of respondents recognize the **potential of e-labelling to enhance adherence**, particularly through improved clarity, accessibility, and digital functionalities.
- These insights suggest that integrating **user-friendly features** into elabelling systems could directly support **safer and more informed medicine use**, especially for long-term therapy.

# Public Insights: Additional comments or concerns about e-labelling.

- *"Difficult to be accessed by elderly"*
- "Data mudah dijual oleh scammer"
- "Security possibility of being hack. Was it being monitored by regulated body to ensure the data is correct and accurate at ALL TIME"
- *"Jika maklumat tidak dberikan dengan baik, pesakit mungkin akan kekurangan atau terlebih dos ketika ambil ubat"*
- "In case of emergency and there is no internet? E-labelling becomes useless"

# **Preliminary Observations**

- The Malaysian public demonstrates **willingness** and **positive perception** toward e-labelling despite limited prior experience.
- The findings suggest a clear opportunity for national rollout, provided that key barriers—such as digital access, literacy, and trust—are addressed through education, inclusive design, and hybrid access models (e.g., optional printed labels).
- Strategic support from healthcare providers and regulators will be essential to ensure equitable and effective implementation.

# Limitations and Next Steps

### Limitations

- The current analysis remains limited by insufficient demographic representation, particularly among private sector healthcare professionals and vulnerable populations.
- Vulnerable communities—including the elderly, persons with disabilities, and those with low digital access—remain underrepresented.

### **Next Steps (Ongoing)**

- Expand data collection to cover underrepresented segments, including private sector HCPs, older adults, and digitally marginalized groups.
- **Stratify analysis** by sector, age group, digital proficiency, and geographic location to assess readiness more accurately.

## Thank You