

# Overview of Halal Labeling of Herbal Medicine In Pharmacies

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## ABSTRACT

Medicine is defined as a material or mixture of materials used as a health effort. Medicines and herbal medicines can be said to be halal if they meet the critical points of halalness, including from the process of selecting materials to becoming finished drug products that will be used by patients, not using and coming into contact/contaminated with haram substances and getting a halal label issued by BPJPH (Halal Product Guarantee Agency). Indonesia is a country with a Muslim majority that needs consumer protection for drug products circulating in the market so that products with a halal label are needed. The aim is to find out the availability of halal herbal medicines at Pharmacy X. This research method is descriptive observational by collecting data on all herbal medicines by recording the name of the medicine and checking the halal label on the packaging. Data processing was carried out by creating a table and calculating the percentage of the number of herbal medicines labeled halal and non-halal which were available at Pharmacy X. The results of the study obtained 136 halal-labeled herbal medicines (91.89%) and 12 non-halal-labeled herbal medicines (8.11%) out of 148 herbal medicine items available at Pharmacy X. Herbal medicines can be classified as halal if the composition listed on the packaging does not contain any haram elements and has been registered with the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency (BPOM).

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## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia has the largest Muslim population in the world. In 2023, according to The Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Center (RISSC), 86.7% of the Muslim population in Indonesia out of 277.53 million people were recorded as Muslims. The high Muslim population in Indonesia should be a special concern for the government. It is important for every product on the market to include a halal label on its packaging. This aims to protect consumers in choosing products that are in accordance with Islamic law.

Based on the Halal Product Guarantee Law, the Halal Product Guarantee Organizing Agency (BPJPH) collaborates with the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) and the Halal Organizing Agency (LPH). This collaboration aims to realize halal certification and labeling for various types of products, including food, medicines, and cosmetics (Purwanto, 2018), one of which is herbal medicine. Herbal medicine was chosen in this study because of the wealth of resources that Indonesia has which makes the use of herbal medicine strong, which also has a global influence. The prevalence of herbal medicine use globally has increased significantly, reaching 80%. This percentage varies in each country, influenced by different social, economic, and cultural backgrounds. In addition, the use of ineffective and dissatisfied modern medicine has caused the majority of the population of European countries to switch to using herbs (Iqbal et al., 2022).

Pharmacies provide a variety of medicinal products, both chemical-based medicines and herbal-based medicines and so on. Pharmacy X was chosen as the research site because it is located in Puduk Payung, which is one of the sub-districts in Banyumanik District. Based on Semarang City Demographic Data, Puduk Payung Village has the largest Muslim population in Banyumanik District, which is 21,072 people (Portal Satu Data Tingkat Kota Semarang, 2024). The higher the Muslim population in an area, the more halal-labeled herbal medicine products should be available.

Medicines that use plants or natural ingredients as active ingredients are often referred to as herbal medicines. Traditional alternative medicine usually uses herbal medicines as a therapy given to patients (Gonibala et al., 2022)

Halal means everything that is permitted by Allah and His Messenger, whether stated explicitly in the Qur'an or hadith, or revealed through certain principles. This includes all actions ordered by Allah or His Messenger that do not cause harm, as well as things that are not prohibited by Allah and His Messenger (Rahmadani, 2015). The critical point in determining the halalness of a product lies in tracing the origin of the ingredients and the manufacturing process. Furthermore, this process needs to be compared with the principles of Islamic law that are relevant to the halalness of the product. If the results of the tracing are in accordance with existing rules, then the product can be considered halal. Conversely, if there is a discrepancy, the halalness of the product becomes questionable. Therefore, verification steps need to be taken on aspects that are in doubt.

This critical point is determined based on established halal guidelines, which include the ingredients used and each stage in the production process that has the potential to affect the halal status of the product. To determine these critical control points, it is necessary to create and verify a material flow chart, followed by an in-depth analysis of each stage that is at risk of contamination by materials that can make the product haram (Purwanto, 2018).

Halal certification is a process that ensures that the raw materials, production methods, and halal assurance system of a product in a company have met the standards set by the auditor. This process aims to determine the halal status of the product. The result of the certification process is a written fatwa stating the halal status of the product, which is stated in the form of a halal certificate. This halal certificate is valid for four years and can be extended. The company is responsible for maintaining the halal status of the product on an ongoing basis. In addition, every six months, the company is required to report on the implementation of the Halal Assurance System (SJH) that has been implemented (Faridah, 2019).

Halal labeling refers to the placement of a halal logo or label on the packaging of products that have met halal standards. The main function of this label is to provide information to consumers that the product has halal status. The Food and Drug Supervisory Agency (BPOM) is an institution that has the authority to grant permission to use the halal label. Certification and labeling are very closely related. The certificate issued by the Halal Product Assurance Organizing Agency (BPJPH) is the main requirement to be able to display the halal logo or label on the product (Faridah, 2019).

Based on the description, it is necessary to conduct research on the Description of Halal Labeling of Herbal Medicines at Pharmacy X. This is to determine the availability of halal-labeled herbal medicines at pharmacies.

## **METHODS**

### **Materials**

In this study, the materials used were observation sheets containing a complete list of herbal medicines, industry names, and a checklist regarding halal labels.

### **Procedures**

The study was conducted by collecting data through descriptive observation by observing the secondary packaging of herbal medicine preparations available on the drug storage shelves of Pharmacy X. Then, the name of the medicine and the name of the herbal medicine industry were recorded and checked for halal certification and halal labeling. The halal label can be validated by looking at the substance content in the packaging composition, in addition to that, the logo and certificate number or halal registration from the BPJPH institution which collaborates with LPM and MUI are definitely included. Observations were carried out for approximately 2 months.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Halal-labeled products are now the most sought-after trend, especially halal medicines because consumers must use halal and *thayyib* medicinal products. This is related to the acceptance of a Muslim's worship to choose halal and *thayyib* products so that it will have a good influence on physical and spiritual life because all that is halal can bring goodness and benefits (Hidayat & Siradj, 2015).

In determining critical points in the halal product certification process, the goal is to prevent potential errors and deviations in raw materials and production stages that can be contaminated by prohibited substances. Products that are declared halal are those that are free from pork components and their derivatives, and do not contain prohibited materials such as those from human organs, blood, carcasses, feces, or intoxicating materials. All materials used must come from halal animals and be slaughtered in accordance with Islamic law. In addition, storage, processing, and transportation must be separate from prohibited goods. If the tool or place has ever been

used to store non-halal goods, it must be cleaned first according to the procedures set out in Islamic law (Purwanto, 2018).

The halal product guarantee law is a mandatory function for all products circulating in Indonesia to have a halal label, be it food, beverage, cosmetic, medicine and so on. Based on the analysis of the research results regarding the percentage of halal labels for herbal medicines presented in Table 1, it shows that of the 148 herbal medicine items at Pharmacy X, there are 136 items (91.89%) that include a halal label on the packaging, while the remaining 12 items (8.11%) do not include a halal label.

**Table 1. Percentage of Halal Labeling of Herbal Medicines at Pharmacy X**

<i>Halal Label</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
Ada	136	91,89
Tidak Ada	12	8,11
<b>Total</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>100</b>

There are several things that need to be considered regarding the critical points of the halalness of herbal medicine, namely (1) raw materials, if they come from animals, make sure the animals are halal and slaughtered according to sharia; (2) additional ingredients, one of which is a solvent, if the solvent used is alcohol, it must be ensured that the source is not from khamr; (3) extraction process; (4) capsule shells and production facilities. A herbal medicine that is not yet halal is not necessarily haram. This can be checked on the BPOM website regarding the composition of its manufacture because this is related to the critical points of the halalness of medicinal ingredients (Rahmawati & Fathurohman Sw, 2024).

As pharmacists, practitioners are required to be able to provide information to the public about herbal medicines that are already halal so that the public, especially Muslims, know that herbal medicines are also halal. Basically, treatment must be carried out using methods that are in accordance with sharia, and the medicines used must be pure and halal. In a hadith conveyed by Abu Dawud, there is a statement from the Prophet Muhammad SAW explaining this: Allah has revealed that every disease has a cure, and seek treatment and do not use drugs that are forbidden". Treatment can be permitted in an unlawful manner if in a forced situation (dorurot), life-threatening and there are no pure and halal medicinal ingredients (Matodihardjo et al., 2022). However, there are also several reasons why business actors have not yet carried out halal certification on their products due to the costs of processing certification, limitations and minimal information for accessing halal certification facilities and the lack of awareness of business actors (Maksudi et al., 2023).

## CONCLUSION

In this study, it can be concluded that herbal medicines labeled halal are 136 items (91.89%), while the remaining 12 items (8.11%) are not labeled halal. Herbal medicines that are not labeled halal can be classified as halal if the composition listed on the packaging does not contain haram elements and has been registered with the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency (BPOM).

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author affirms that the data in this journal publication is devoid of any conflicts of interest with any relevant parties.

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