

Design and Performance Implication of Pharmacy Information System

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ABSTRACT

In the modern healthcare landscape, efficient and accurate pharmaceutical management is critical to ensuring patient safety and operational effectiveness. The **Pharmacy Information System (PIS)** is a software-based solution designed to streamline pharmacy operations, reducing errors and improving workflow efficiency. This project aims to develop a **comprehensive, automated, and secure** pharmacy information system to handle prescription processing, inventory management, patient medication history, and regulatory compliance. The system will feature automated prescription handling, enabling pharmacists to efficiently receive, validate, and dispense medications while minimizing manual errors. A real-time inventory management module will track stock levels, notify users of low inventory, and generate automated restocking alerts. Additionally, patient medication history tracking will ensure that healthcare providers can access accurate records, reducing the risk of adverse drug interactions. To further enhance safety, the system will incorporate drug interaction alerts, ensuring that prescriptions do not conflict with existing patient medications. The billing and reporting module will allow pharmacies to generate invoices, manage financial transactions, and generate compliance reports to meet regulatory requirements. Security measures such as user authentication, role-based access control, and data encryption will be integrated to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of sensitive patient and pharmacy data. By implementing this Pharmacy Information System, pharmacies can improve operational efficiency, reduce medication errors, enhance regulatory compliance, and provide better patient care. The project will leverage modern programming technologies and database management systems to create a **scalable, high-performance, and user-friendly** application tailored to meet the dynamic needs of the pharmaceutical industry.

I. INTRODUCTION

Pharmacies are a vital component of the healthcare system, playing a crucial role in ensuring the safe and efficient dispensing of medications to patients. They are responsible for managing prescriptions, maintaining accurate patient medication records, tracking inventory, and ensuring regulatory compliance. However, traditional manual methods of pharmacy management present numerous challenges, including human errors, inefficiencies in tracking medication stock, and difficulties in maintaining comprehensive patient records. Digital interventions such as mobile health applications and automated reminders improve patient compliance, leading to better treatment outcomes [6], [15]. These issues can lead to medication errors, stock shortages, delayed patient services, and complications in regulatory reporting. The growing demand for streamlined pharmacy operations and improved patient safety necessitates the adoption of digital solutions that can optimize efficiency, accuracy, and security.

To address these challenges, a **Pharmacy Information System (PIS)** is designed as an automated solution that enhances the overall workflow of pharmacies by integrating various essential functionalities into a centralized digital platform. This system enables pharmacists to efficiently handle prescriptions, inventory management, billing, patient records, and regulatory compliance while minimizing human intervention. The automation of prescription processing ensures accurate and timely medication dispensing, reducing the risk of errors commonly associated with manual handling. Another critical advancement is the implementation of **electronic health records (EHRs)** and interoperability solutions, which enable seamless data sharing between pharmacies, hospitals, and clinicians [5], [28]. Additionally, the real-time inventory management module allows pharmacies to track stock levels dynamically, generate automated alerts for low supplies, and

streamline communication with suppliers for timely restocking. This prevents overstocking, stock shortages, and expiration of medications, ultimately enhancing operational efficiency and financial management.

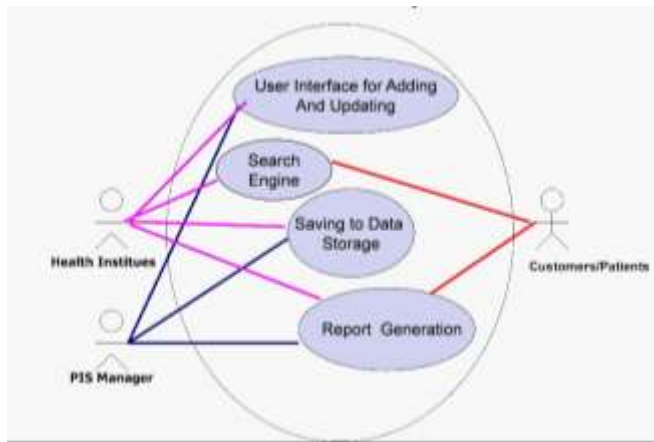


FIGURE 1 – PIS SYSTEM

An essential feature of the Pharmacy Information System is its ability to maintain comprehensive patient medication histories, which enables healthcare professionals to access past prescription records, track medication adherence, and prevent potential drug interactions. The system further enhances patient safety through its drug interaction and allergy alert system, which notifies pharmacists if a prescribed medication may have adverse effects based on the patient's medical history or known allergies. This proactive approach significantly reduces the risk of medication-related complications and ensures that pharmacists can make informed decisions when dispensing drugs.

Beyond medication management, the system also simplifies billing and financial transactions by automating invoice generation, payment processing, and financial record-keeping. Research shows that electronic prescribing in hospital pharmacy settings minimizes medication errors and optimizes drug administration workflows [2], [3]. This reduces administrative workload and ensures accurate financial reporting. Additionally, pharmacies must comply with various **healthcare regulations and legal standards**. The Pharmacy Information System ensures seamless compliance by automatically generating compliance reports, maintaining audit logs, and securely storing all pharmacy-related transactions.

Given the sensitive nature of healthcare data, security is a major concern in pharmacy management. The Pharmacy Information System incorporates **role-based access control, user authentication, and data encryption** to safeguard patient and pharmacy records from unauthorized access. The integration of **cloud-based storage solutions** further enhances data security by enabling **secure backups, remote access, and disaster recovery options**, ensuring that pharmacy operations remain uninterrupted even in the event of system failures or technical issues.

By implementing a Pharmacy Information System, pharmacies can eliminate inefficiencies, reduce medication errors, improve workflow management, enhance patient safety, and ensure

regulatory compliance. The technologies will ensure that the system is high-performing, user-friendly, and adaptable to the evolving needs of the pharmaceutical industry.

This project aims to revolutionize pharmacy management by introducing a secure, efficient, and technologically advanced solution that optimizes pharmacy operations while enhancing patient care. By leveraging automation, real-time tracking, and digital security measures, the Pharmacy Information System will serve as a **reliable and innovative tool** for modern pharmacy establishments, ensuring improved accuracy, reduced operational costs, and enhanced patient outcomes.



FIGURE 2 – FEATURES

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

A Pharmacy Information System (PIS) is an essential sub-system of a **Hospital Information System (HIS)** designed to help pharmacists manage medication-related processes efficiently and safely. The adoption of PIS has been widely recognized for improving workflow efficiency, reducing medication errors, and enhancing patient safety. However, to fully realize its benefits, it is crucial to evaluate its impact on pharmacists' workflow and overall medication management. The integration of information technology (IT) in pharmacy systems has significantly transformed medication management, safety, and operational efficiency. Abidi proposed a knowledge-based framework that enhances interoperability between clinical and pharmacy information systems, fostering seamless communication for improved patient care [1]. The study, carried out at the **Pharmaceutical Care Department**, collected data from inpatient pharmacists through a survey-based questionnaire. The findings revealed that most pharmacists had a positive experience with PIS, particularly regarding its functionality. However, challenges such as system complexity, lack of adequate training, and motivational issues affected the continued use of the system. Ontology-based pharmacy information systems, as proposed by Dinevski and Bele, offer a structured approach to data organization, enhancing decision support [10]. To maximize the efficiency of PIS, it is necessary to enhance **user engagement, improve system usability, and implement regular training programs** to reduce the number of demotivated users.

Despite the advantages of digital systems, many pharmacies still rely on manual processes that are slow, labor-intensive, and

error-prone. Physicians typically issue handwritten prescriptions, which patients then carry to pharmacies, increasing the risk of misinterpretation, loss, and damage. Manual prescription handling leads to delays, excessive paperwork, and a high likelihood of human errors, affecting both operational efficiency and patient safety. Additionally, inventory management remains a challenge as stock levels are tracked manually, often resulting in shortages, overstocking, and expired medications. The reliance on manual processes makes regulatory compliance difficult, as maintaining accurate logs and reports is time-consuming and prone to inaccuracies. These inefficiencies highlight the urgent need for **automation and digital transformation** in pharmacy operations.

To address these challenges, this project proposes the development of a Pharmacy Information System (PIS) that integrates key functionalities such as patient registration, prescription management, automated inventory tracking, billing, and compliance reporting. By digitizing these processes, the system aims to enhance workflow efficiency, improve the accuracy of medication dispensing, and reduce the manual workload for pharmacy staff. The PIS will also incorporate **drug interaction and allergy alerts**, ensuring patient safety by preventing adverse medication reactions. Furthermore, the system will facilitate **real-time inventory management**, sending automated alerts for low-stock or expired medications, thereby reducing financial losses and ensuring the availability of essential drugs. The integration of **billing and financial transaction management** will streamline the invoicing process, reduce paperwork, and improve financial record-keeping. Additionally, built-in compliance features will assist pharmacies in adhering to regulatory standards by automatically generating reports and maintaining detailed audit logs. Health IT adoption in pharmacy, as examined by Jha and DesRoches [16], has shown promising advancements but also faces barriers such as cost and training requirements. Kaushal et al. [17] investigated the role of IT in mitigating medication errors, reinforcing the necessity of robust pharmacy IT systems.

By implementing a computerized Pharmacy Information System, hospitals and pharmacies can significantly enhance operational efficiency, minimize medication errors, and improve overall patient care. The adoption of modern technologies such as cloud-based storage, AI-driven analytics, and secure authentication mechanisms will further improve the scalability, security, and usability of the system. However, privacy and security concerns remain a challenge, as discussed by Barrows and Clayton [4], who emphasized the importance of safeguarding sensitive patient data in pharmacy IT infrastructures. Studies have shown that while PIS adoption positively impacts pharmacy operations, continuous improvements in training, user-friendliness, and staff motivation are essential for maximizing long-term benefits. The proposed system aims to bridge the gap between traditional pharmacy management challenges and modern digital solutions, ensuring a more effective, accurate, and patient-centric pharmacy workflow.

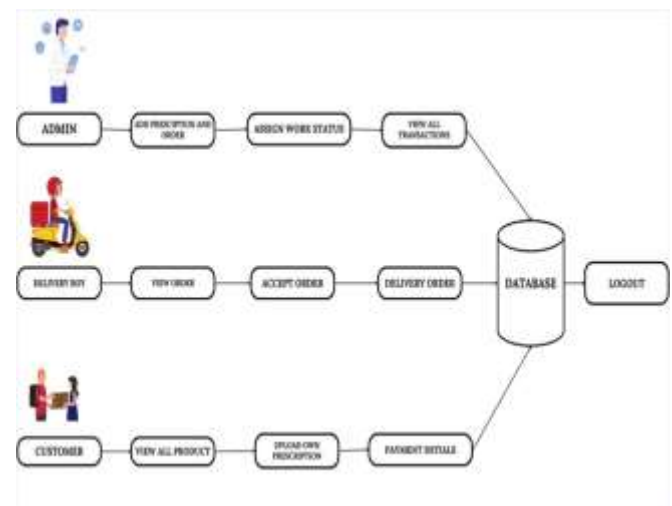


FIGURE 3 – ARCHITECTURE

III. SYSTEM

1. Existing System

The current pharmacy information systems (PIS) have evolved significantly over the years, integrating various digital technologies to enhance medication management, patient safety, and operational efficiency. Traditionally, pharmacies relied on paper-based prescription systems, which were prone to human errors, misinterpretation, and delays in processing medications [1], [2]. With the advent of **electronic prescribing (e-prescribing)** and **computerized physician order entry (CPOE)**, medication errors have been reduced, and prescription accuracy has improved [6]. However, existing digital pharmacy systems still face challenges in terms of usability, interoperability, and security [28].

Many hospitals and retail pharmacies utilize **electronic health records (EHRs)** for patient medication history tracking, but these systems often lack seamless integration with pharmacy databases, leading to discrepancies in medication reconciliation [5]. Privacy and security concerns also persist, as unauthorized access to pharmacy databases poses risks to patient data confidentiality. Additionally, **clinical decision support systems (CDSS)** embedded within pharmacy IT systems provide drug interaction alerts, but their effectiveness is sometimes hindered by alert fatigue, where pharmacists and clinicians ignore excessive or irrelevant warnings [12].

Despite advancements in automation and medication dispensing systems, there are still inefficiencies in workflow management. Many **automated dispensing machines (ADMs)** and **barcode medication administration (BCMA)** systems are not universally adopted, leading to inconsistencies in medication safety measures [14]. The lack of standardization and interoperability between different pharmacy software solutions further complicates real-time pharmacovigilance and medication error reporting [9], [28]. **Mobile health applications** have been introduced to improve medication adherence and patient engagement, yet their adoption remains limited due to usability issues and resistance from both patients and healthcare providers.

Moreover, the use of big data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) in pharmacy management is still in its early stages, with most existing systems relying on basic rule-based decision support rather than predictive analytics [25]. While blockchain technology has been explored for secure pharmacy data management, its implementation in mainstream pharmacy systems remains limited [20]. These limitations highlight the need for a more advanced, secure, and integrated pharmacy IT system that enhances medication safety, optimizes workflow, and incorporates emerging technologies for improved efficiency.

2. Proposed System

To address the limitations of the existing systems, the proposed pharmacy IT system aims to create a **fully integrated, intelligent, and secure digital pharmacy ecosystem** that enhances medication management, patient safety, and interoperability. This system will incorporate advanced electronic prescribing and medication management solutions with improved **clinical decision support** to minimize medication errors and streamline workflows [2], [3], [12]. The system will also ensure **seamless integration with electronic health records (EHRs)**, allowing pharmacists and healthcare providers to access real-time patient medication history and make informed decisions [5], [28].

A key component of the proposed system is the implementation of blockchain technology for secure and tamper-proof pharmacy data management. Blockchain will enhance the traceability of prescriptions, prevent fraudulent drug transactions, and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Additionally, AI-driven decision support and big data analytics will be integrated to improve predictive medication safety, detect adverse drug reactions, and optimize personalized treatment plans [9], [25], [27].

To improve **usability and workflow efficiency**, the proposed system will enhance the **automation of medication dispensing and barcode-based verification** to ensure accurate drug administration [14], [22]. It will also incorporate **mobile health applications** with AI-powered medication adherence monitoring, enabling patients to receive automated reminders, track their prescriptions, and engage with pharmacists in real-time [6], [15]. Furthermore, the system will address alert fatigue in decision support systems by implementing adaptive learning mechanisms that prioritize high-risk alerts while minimizing unnecessary notifications.

The proposed system will focus on **enhanced interoperability**, ensuring that all pharmacy databases, hospital systems, and healthcare providers are interconnected using standardized protocols. This will facilitate real-time pharmacovigilance and reporting of medication errors, improving overall patient safety. Additionally, user-friendly interfaces and training programs will be developed to encourage adoption and reduce resistance among healthcare professionals [18].

By integrating these advanced technologies, the proposed pharmacy IT system will provide a comprehensive, secure, and intelligent platform that optimizes pharmacy workflows, enhances patient safety, and leverages emerging innovations to

improve medication management. This system will not only overcome the existing limitations but also pave the way for a more **efficient, transparent, and data-driven** future in pharmacy practice [1-28].

IV. Modules

The Pharmacy Information System (PIS) is a comprehensive solution designed to streamline pharmacy operations by integrating three primary modules: **Delivery Boy Module, Admin Module, and Customer Module**. Each of these modules plays a crucial role in ensuring smooth medication management, efficient service delivery, and enhanced customer satisfaction. By digitizing and automating various pharmacy functions, the system reduces human errors, optimizes inventory management, speeds up prescription processing, and ensures compliance with healthcare regulations.

The **Delivery Boy Module** is specifically designed to facilitate the efficient and timely delivery of medicines to customers. Once an order is placed and processed, the system automatically assigns it to an available delivery boy based on factors such as location, workload, and priority. The delivery personnel receive real-time notifications and access to the delivery details, including the customer's address and order information. The system is integrated with **GPS navigation**, allowing delivery personnel to find the fastest and most efficient route to their destination. **Real-time status updates** enable delivery boys to mark orders as "Out for Delivery," "Delivered," or "Canceled," ensuring transparency for both the pharmacy and the customer. To enhance security and reliability, **digital proof of delivery** is implemented, where customers confirm receipt through OTP verification or a digital signature. If the pharmacy offers **cash-on-delivery (COD)**, the delivery personnel can update the payment status in the system upon successful collection. Additionally, the module allows customers to communicate with the delivery personnel in case of delays, address changes, or other concerns. To ensure efficiency and reliability, the system maintains **delivery performance tracking**, recording metrics such as delivery times, completed orders, and customer feedback, helping the pharmacy assess the efficiency of its logistics operations and improve service where necessary.

The **Admin Module** serves as the backbone of the Pharmacy Information System, providing complete control over pharmacy operations. It allows administrators to manage users, inventory, orders, billing, and compliance efficiently. The user management system enables admins to add, remove, or update user profiles, including customers, pharmacists, and delivery personnel, with role-based access control to ensure that each user can only access relevant system features. The inventory and stock management system tracks medicine availability in real time, alerts administrators when stock is running low, and automates restocking processes by notifying suppliers when supplies need replenishment. This prevents issues such as overstocking, stock shortages, and expired medications. The prescription verification and approval system ensures that all uploaded prescriptions are validated by pharmacists before medication orders are processed, reducing the risk of errors or unauthorized drug dispensing. The order management feature allows admins to monitor active, pending, and completed orders, make modifications if necessary, and coordinate efficiently with both customers and delivery personnel.

Furthermore, the financial and billing system automates the generation of invoices, payment processing, and financial record-keeping, ensuring transparency in transactions and minimizing errors. It integrates multiple payment gateways, allowing customers to choose from **online payment options, including credit/debit cards, UPI, net banking, and COD**. The system also ensures that pharmacies comply with healthcare regulations and legal standards by generating regulatory compliance reports automatically. These reports maintain a detailed log of all pharmacy transactions and ensure adherence to government guidelines and medical standards. To improve customer engagement and boost sales, the admin can create promotional campaigns, discount codes, and loyalty programs that offer special deals on specific medicines or services, ultimately enhancing customer satisfaction and retention.

The **Customer Module** is designed to provide a seamless and user-friendly experience for pharmacy customers. It includes an easy registration and login system, allowing customers to sign up using an email ID, phone number, or social media authentication. Customers can upload their prescriptions digitally, eliminating the need for physical visits to the pharmacy and reducing waiting times. The search and browsing feature allows users to look up medicines based on categories, brands, or specific health conditions. Once customers find the required medications, they can add them to their cart and proceed with ordering, choosing their preferred payment method and delivery option.

After placing an order, customers receive real-time updates and notifications about their order status, estimated delivery time, and any modifications made by the pharmacy. The **order tracking feature** allows them to monitor the exact location of their package in real-time, ensuring complete transparency. To accommodate different payment preferences, the system provides **multiple payment options, including credit/debit cards, UPI, net banking, and COD**. Additionally, a medication reminder system helps customers adhere to their prescription schedules by sending alerts when it's time to take their medication or refill their prescriptions. The customer support and feedback system enables users to contact pharmacists directly for queries related to medication availability, dosage instructions, potential drug interactions, and general health concerns. Furthermore, customers can provide feedback and rate their experience with the pharmacy and delivery service, helping to improve overall service quality.

By integrating these three essential modules, the Pharmacy Information System creates a robust, secure, and highly efficient digital ecosystem for pharmacy management. The Delivery Boy Module ensures that customers receive their medications on time with minimal errors, enhancing reliability and accessibility. The **Admin Module** centralizes and optimizes pharmacy operations, from inventory tracking to compliance reporting, ensuring smooth and efficient management. The **Customer Module** offers a seamless ordering experience, allowing users to upload prescriptions, track orders, and receive timely medications from the comfort of their homes. Together, these modules work harmoniously to eliminate inefficiencies, reduce medication errors, improve workflow automation, and ensure regulatory compliance, making pharmacy management more convenient, accurate, and customer-centric.

At the core of the Pharmacy Information System is the **centralized database**, which acts as the primary repository for all pharmacy-related information. It stores prescriptions, order details, user data (admin, delivery personnel, and customers), transaction history, and delivery status. The database ensures that all components of the system are interconnected and synchronized in real time, reducing manual errors and enhancing efficiency. Additionally, the system provides a logout feature, ensuring secure access control and preventing unauthorized access to sensitive medical and financial records.

Overall, this architecture ensures a structured, automated, and secure pharmacy management system. By integrating the **Admin, Delivery Boy, and Customer Modules** with a **centralized database**, the Pharmacy Information System enhances operational efficiency, reduces processing time, improves medication tracking, and ensures better service delivery. This digital transformation helps pharmacies provide **faster, safer, and more reliable** services to customers while maintaining compliance with healthcare regulations.

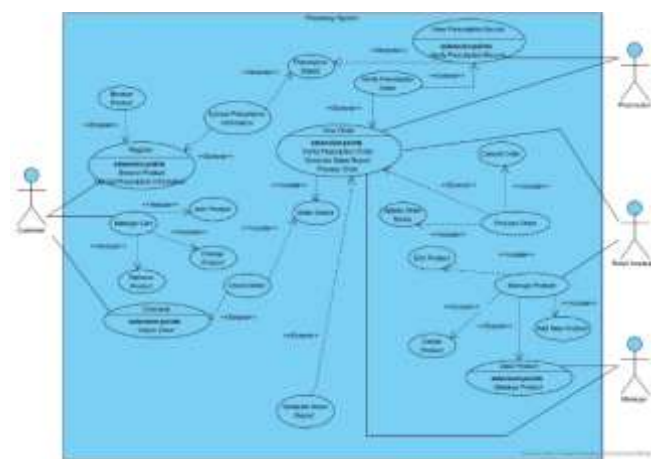


FIGURE 4 – WORKING MODULE

CONCLUSION

The Pharmacy Information System (PIS) represents a significant step toward the **digital transformation of pharmacy management**, addressing the inefficiencies of traditional manual processes. By automating **prescription handling, order management, inventory tracking, delivery coordination, and payment processing**, this system enhances **workflow efficiency, accuracy, and security** while reducing the risks associated with human errors. The integration of Admin, Delivery Boy, and Customer Modules ensures a seamless and interconnected pharmacy operation, benefiting all stakeholders involved.

The **Admin Module** plays a crucial role in overseeing operations, managing orders, assigning delivery personnel, and monitoring transactions. By having real-time access to data, admins can make data-driven decisions to ensure smooth pharmacy operations, prevent stock shortages, and improve customer satisfaction. The **Delivery Boy Module** ensures that orders are fulfilled promptly, reducing delays and enhancing the convenience of doorstep medication delivery for customers. The **Customer Module** provides an easy-to-use interface that

allows users to browse available medications, upload prescriptions, track orders, and complete secure payments, offering them a hassle-free experience.

One of the key strengths of this system is its **centralized database**, which serves as the backbone of the entire architecture. It stores **prescriptions, inventory details, order transactions, customer records, and delivery statuses**, ensuring **real-time synchronization and accessibility** for authorized users. The system's security features, such as **role-based access control, encryption, and authentication mechanisms**, help protect sensitive medical and financial data from unauthorized access, ensuring compliance with healthcare and data privacy regulations.

Additionally, the Pharmacy Information System improves operational efficiency by reducing paperwork, **automating repetitive tasks, and minimizing errors in dispensing medications**. Real-time **inventory monitoring** helps avoid stock shortages and overstocking, ensuring that pharmacies operate efficiently without financial losses due to expired medicines. Moreover, the automated billing system eliminates calculation errors and provides a transparent financial record for auditing and compliance purposes.

With the adoption of modern web technologies, this system is **scalable, high-performing, and future-ready**. Cloud-based integration ensures secure data backups and remote access, making it highly reliable even in cases of system failures. The system's intelligent features, such as drug interaction alerts, medication reminders, and automated notifications, further contribute to improving patient safety and adherence to prescribed treatments.

By eliminating manual inefficiencies, improving accuracy, and enhancing compliance with healthcare regulations, the Pharmacy Information System revolutionizes pharmacy management, offering a more efficient, transparent, and patient-centric approach. This system not only benefits pharmacy staff, delivery personnel, and customers but also contributes to better healthcare outcomes by ensuring timely access to essential medications. In an era where technology is reshaping healthcare, the PIS stands as a robust, innovative, and indispensable solution, paving the way for a **smarter, safer, and more advanced pharmaceutical industry**.

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