Motivation of Pharmacies to use Biometric Authentication
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Overview

The purpose of this research is to survey and interview pharmacists who had experienced biometric authenticators in a pharmacy setting and those who have not, to answer the question, “Why would pharmacists highly consider using traditional authentication systems than biometric systems despite the security issue of memorability?” Understanding the pharmacists’ thoughts, motivations, influences, decisions, and attitudes of using biometric systems may identify possible variables to develop a theory.

Research Questions

- How do pharmacists describe their experience using passwords and physical objects as authenticators within a pharmacy?
- How do pharmacists describe their decision to implement a non-traditional authenticator within a pharmacy?
- How do pharmacists describe their experience using a biometric system authenticator within a pharmacy?
- How does biometric systems change these pharmacist’s lives?

Study Environment

Research Sites

Pharmacy Classifications
- Federal
- State
- Privately Owned

Survey Population

- Licensed pharmacists
- Registered pharmacists who possesses either a Pharm.D. degree or bachelor degree
- Pharmacy positions
  - First year licensed residents
  - Second year licensed residents
  - Temporary employed
  - Full time employed
  - Administering pharmacists (e.g. supervisor, manager, owner, chief of pharmacy)

Authentication Systems

Traditional Authentication Systems
- Passwords
  - Hidden: ****
  - Revealed: alice

Physical Objects

Non-Traditional Authentication System
- Biometrics

Triangulation

Variables for a Theory

Figure 1. The model illustrates the relationships amongst the various institutions within the pharmaceutical supply chain. Adapted from “Counterfeit Drugs: Coming to a Pharmacy Near You,” by W. Yankus, 2006, American Council on Science and Health, p. 6.