**THE USE OF COMPUTER IN PHARMACY**

The computer has become a very common tool in all areas of science and technology. With the proliferation of the Internet and the developments in computer technology and manufacturing, the ratio of price to performance of computers continues to decrease. This has resulted in the development of number of computer applications. The field of pharmacy has immensely benefited by the use of computer and will continue to benefit as the pharmacist's gain more familiarity with computers. Further development is still in progress which will make pharmacist's job easier. Some of the important areas where computers are useful are as follows:

**Communication:**Computers are used within pharmacies to facilitate communication. From email to other Internet-based messaging systems, online communication allows pharmacists and other pharmacy staff to keep in contact both within their own organization and within the professional community. Some pharmaceutical companies have their own Intranet systems for internal communications over the Internet.  
**Prescription Processing:**  
Prescription processing is invariably one of the main activities going on within a pharmacy on a day-to-day basis, and computers are used to make this process more reliable and efficient. Both the customer service side of pharmacy operation and the dispensing aspect are today carried out through the use of computing systems. Pharmacy computers also handle customer service activities such as sales and cash handling within the retail operation.  
**Information:**Having access to the Web via pharmacy computers is something that has enhanced the ability of pharmacists to carry out their duties to a higher standard. As well as giving the pharmacy staff access to the vast store of information that is available on the Internet, including those on specialist pharmacy resources, the Internet connects pharmacists to their peers on a global scale. Pharmaceutical companies are also responsible for providing updated, relevant information on the efficacy, safety and quality of drugs to medical professionals and finally to patients.  
**Databases:**  
Computer databases for information about medicines, and medical treatment in general, are used within pharmacies. These database systems allow pharmacy staff to find out information about any potential conflicts or health-care problems in a prescribed treatment, as well as information about the details of any particular medicine the pharmacist needs to know more about. This information may include ingredients and potential effects as well as research and scientific data.

**Presentation:**

The field of medicine often relies on complex definitions of conditions and procedural techniques. If you are an educator, use the computer to show your medical students PowerPoint presentations that simplify the large amounts of text often needed in medical science. Stick to the basics in the visual presentations. You also may use computers to present video data of medical policies or procedures, or for slide shows of diseases or traumas and their treatments.

**Error Prevention:**

Pharmacy computer systems can help to prevent errors in medication, potentially saving lives and generally preserving the health of patients. As well as checking medicines and combinations of medicines, these systems can in some cases check on patient information. The availability of such systems varies across the different geographical areas, but in some cases pharmacy computers are able to check on prescribed medicines with specific reference to a patient and their overall health-care picture.

**Computer aided design of drugs:**

Various hardware and software have been developed without which drug discovery, designing, manufacturing and analyzing would become virtually impossible. With the availability of powerful computers and sophisticated graphics software, it is possible for the medicinal chemist to design new molecules and evaluate their effectiveness.

**COMPUTER SOFTWARE USED IN PHARMACY**

1.   WinPharm:

2.   Pioneer RX

3.   HBS Pharmacy Software

4.   Arteb Pharmacy Solution