

## Results

The number of prescriptions sampled was 1000, the number of drugs prescribed ranged between 1 and 5 and around 50% of prescriptions included 3 drugs. Only 74.8% of prescriptions included the address of the prescriber. About 4.3% of the prescriptions included the telephone number of the prescriber; the name and signature of the prescriber were included in 97.5% and 96.5% of prescriptions, respectively (Table 1). The name of the patient was present on 96.6% of prescriptions, whereas the patient's age and weight were present in only 15.5% and 2.2 % respectively (Table 1). None of the prescriptions included the address and sex of patient.

**Table 1: Review of 1000 prescription issues at Al Ashar area in Basra city; analysis of prescriber and patient information present on prescriptions**

Information		No.	%
Prescriber	Name	975	97.5%
	Address	748	74.8%
	Phone No.	43	4.3%
	Signature	965	96.5%
Patient	Name	966	96.6%
	Age	155	15.5%
	Address	0	0%
	Weight	22	2.2%
	Sex	0	0%

Date of the prescription was provided in only 55.1% of prescriptions. The handwriting of the prescriber was not clear in 16.3 % of prescriptions (Table 2). With regard to the strength of medication, it was included in 1.7% of the prescriptions and was included for some drugs within the prescription in 60.6%. In the rest of prescriptions (37.7%), the strength of medication was missing. The dose units were not mentioned in 39.2% of prescriptions and mentioned for some drugs within the prescription 59.4%. The units were

mentioned for all drugs in 1.4% of prescriptions. Most of the prescriptions (47.5%) did not contain the quantity that the pharmacist should dispense. The directions for patient use were complete in only 36.1% of prescriptions, 34.5% prescriptions contained partial instructions either among the drugs prescribed or for certain drugs. The space provided for the diagnosis within the prescription was filled clearly in 14.8%, filled unclearly in 8.5% and unfilled in 76.7% of prescriptions (Table 2).

**Table 2: Review of 1000 prescriptions issued at Al Ashar area in Basra city: analysis of information present on prescriptions**

Element		No.	%
Date of prescription	Provided	551	55.1%
	Not	449	44.9%
Strength of medications	Included for all drugs	17	1.7%
	Included for some drugs	606	60.6%
	Not included for all drugs	377	37.7%
Dose unit	Included for all drugs	14	1.4%
	Included for some drugs	594	59.4%
	Not included for all drugs	392	39.2%
Quantity of medications	Included for all drugs	24	2.4%
	Included for some drugs	501	50.1%
	Not included for all drugs	475	47.5%
Instruction for patient use	Included for all drugs	361	36.1%
	Included for some drugs	345	34.5%
	Not included for all drugs	294	29.4%
Diagnosis	Present	148	14.8%
	Not clear	85	8.5%
	Missing	767	76.7%
handwriting	Clear	837	83.7%
	Not clear	163	16.3%