

# AN ALGORITHM FOR THE PROCESS OF SELECTING PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES IN A PHARMACY DEPARTMENT

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## WHAT WAS DONE?

In order to ensure that the process of selecting from several pharmaceutical companies fulfil the requirements of quality and lower cost, a decision-making process for these purchases was designed, through a structured method for the evaluation of new pharmaceutical products based on standardised evaluation criteria.

## WHY WAS IT DONE?

When a new pharmaceutical product should be introduced in a hospital, a multitude of factors must be considered in order to choose a specific brand. A lack of uniformity in the criteria for the selection of new medicines has been detected. To avoid selection errors or arbitrary decisions, a selection structured algorithm was developed using quality tools according to management quality system ISO 9001-2015.

## HOW WAS IT DONE?

A multidisciplinary group was created focused on making decisions about criteria. All stakeholders were represented (management pharmacist, quality experts, management assistant and pharmacy director). Also, a survey was given to different specialist pharmacist to complete the criteria. Second, criteria were categorised according their importance or potential impact in pharmacy practice or patient.

## WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

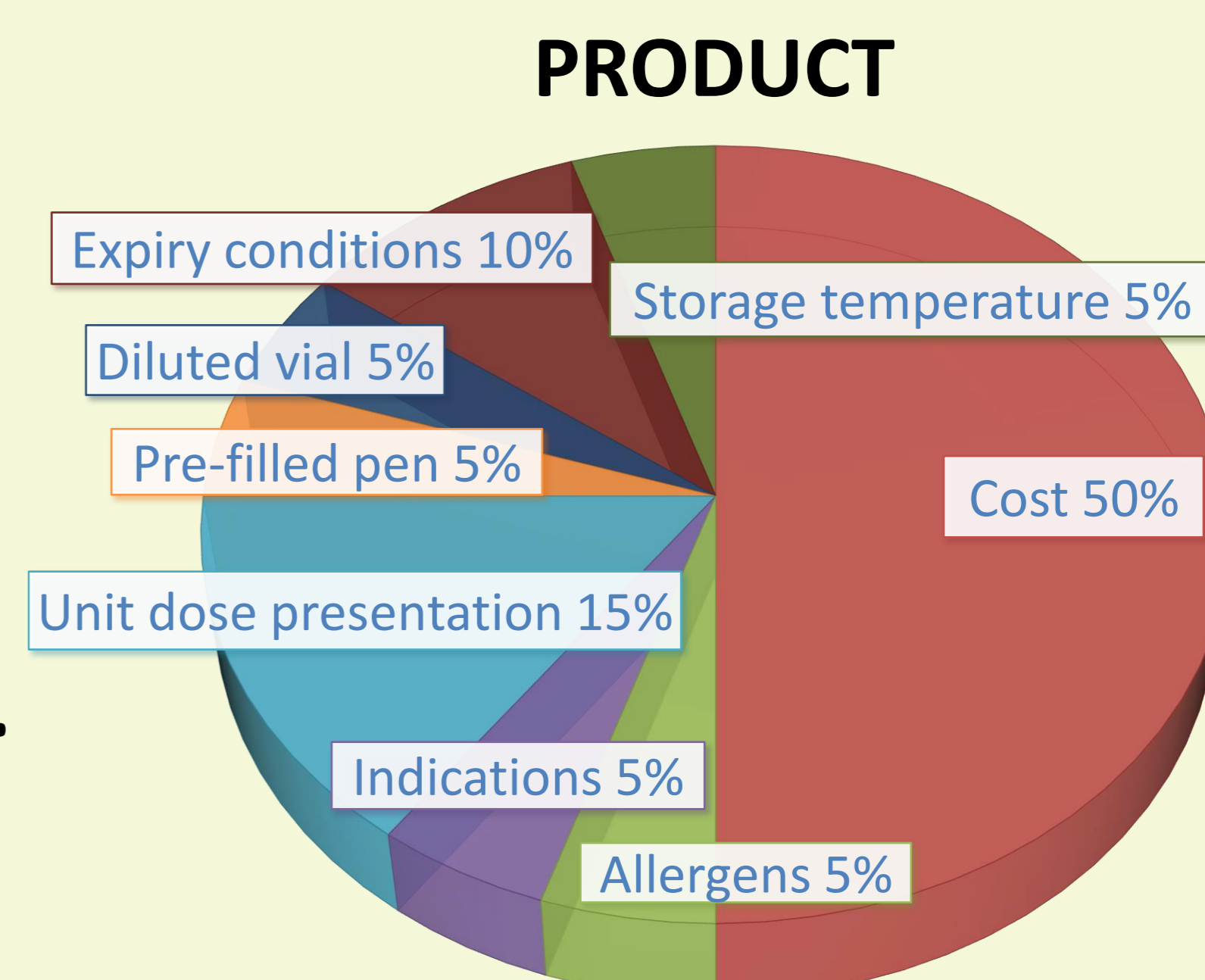
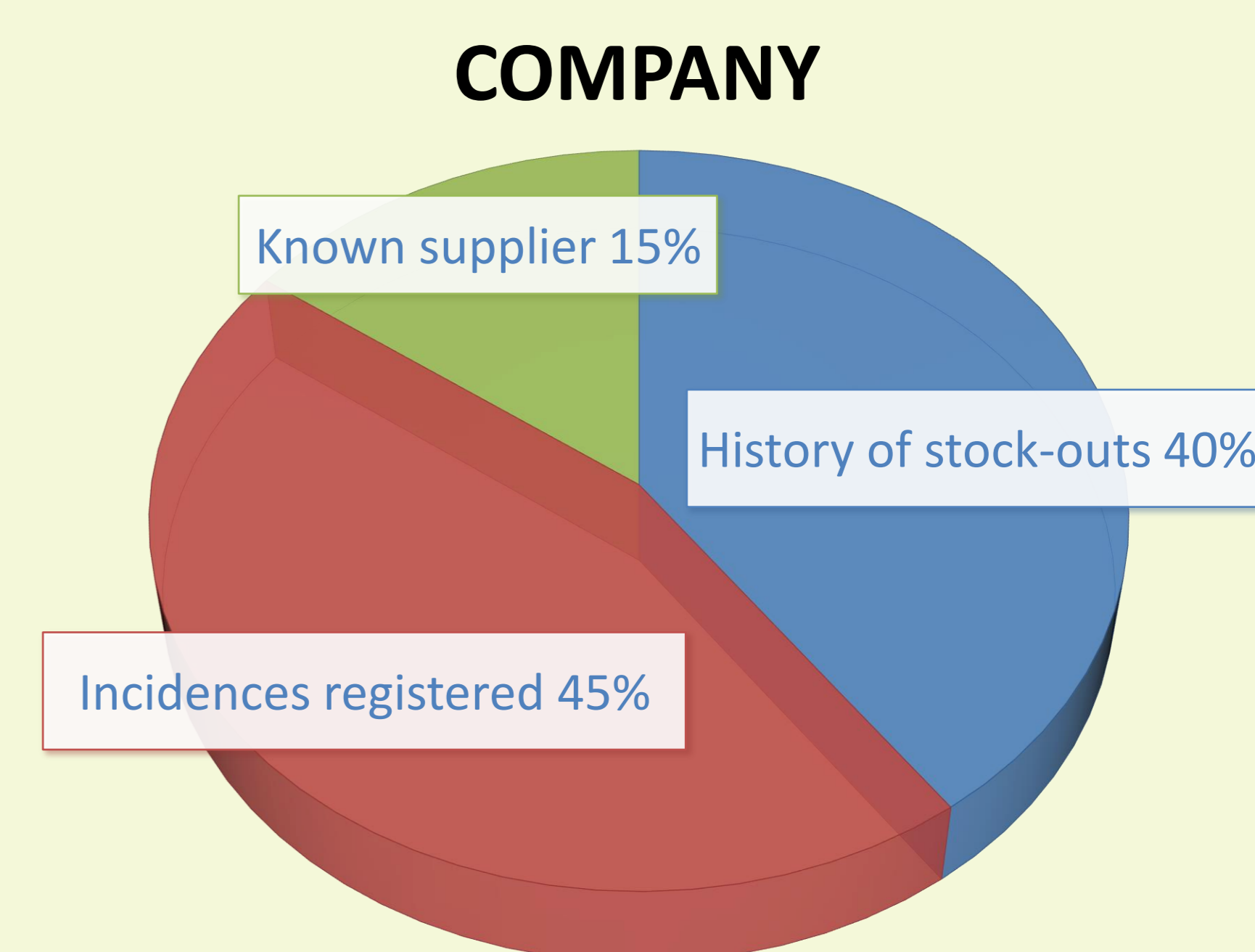
The algorithm took into account aspects related to:

a) **Pharmaceutical company.** The score was based on:

- 40%: not having a repeated history of stock-outs.
- 45%: the evaluation of the provider according to an internal.
- 15%: if the provider was already a known supplier.

b) **Pharmaceutical product.** The score was based on:

- 50%: cost of the medicine.
- 15%: unit dose presentation (if applicable).
- 10%: expiry conditions of the medicine.
- 5%: allergens.
- 5%: if it was presented in a pre-filled pen (if applicable).
- 5%: if it could be stored at room temperature.
- 5%: if the drug is supplied in diluted vials (in the case of parenteral medicines).
- 5%: if it had all the possible indications in the technical data sheet.



## WHAT NEXT?

This tool will be used for all changes of medicine brands and new drugs purchased in the hospital, enabling uniformity in the purchasing process for all new drugs.

