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### **CHURCH PHARMACIES ON THE TERRITORY OF SLOVAKIA IN THE 17<sup>TH</sup> – 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES**

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Historical development of church pharmacies was influenced, apart from the development of pharmacy and healthcare, especially by the history of the church and regular orders, and by general as well as political history of the observed territory. As far as the medical operation of the church is concerned (hospitals, shelters and pharmacies), the course of history was marked by the dominance of Roman Catholic Church by means of individual regular orders and congregations. In the modern period, the most important regular orders operating pharmacies on the territory of Slovakia were the Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God, the Order of St. Elizabeth Nurses and the Society of Jesus. Their pharmacies were mainly public, consequential (the Hospitaller Brothers and St. Elizabeth Nurses) and inconsequential (Jesuits) to sick-bed medical facilities. On the territory of Slovakia were pharmacies owned by the Society of Jesus in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries located in six towns. The Hospitaller Brothers of St. John of God operated three pharmacies, the St. Elisabeth Nurses one pharmacy. Their pharmacies were established during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and became extinct in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.