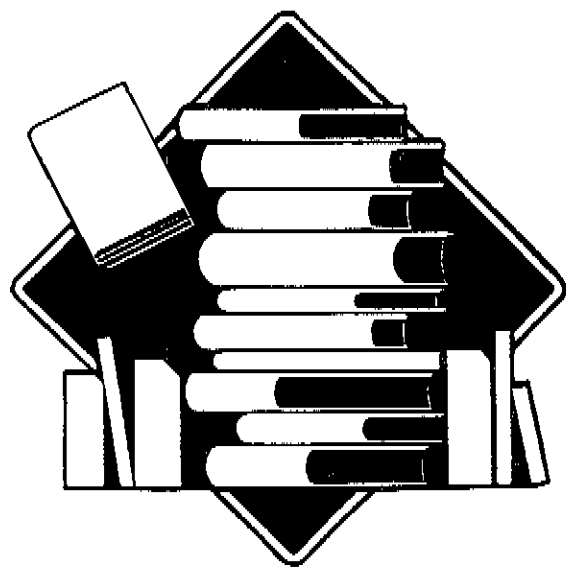


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Essential Drugs

A selected listing
of publications
and documents



August 1997

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World Health Organization



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Introduction

This brochure provides a selected list of some of WHO's principal documents and publications dealing with essential drugs. Annotated, to help direct readers to the most relevant publications in their areas of interest, the list is in 12 sections, which range from drug selection and use, to evaluation, financing and research. It is not comprehensive. For example, it does not contain details of the many essential drugs lists, formularies and treatment guidelines held in the Action Programme on Essential Drugs' (DAP) Documentation Centre (available as a separate publication, see page 29). However, it does provide a useful entry point to the extensive literature available from WHO on the critical issue of essential drugs.

How to order publications

For priced publications and for a full list of WHO publications in the field of pharmaceuticals contact: World Health Organization, Distribution and Sales, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

Fax: + 41 22 791 4857, e-mail: publications@who.ch

To obtain single copies of unpriced publications included in the list contact: Action Programme on Essential Drugs, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

Fax: + 41 22 791 4167, e-mail: dapmail@who.ch

Further information on DAP's publications and activities can also be found on our Homepage on the World-Wide-Web service of the Internet at the following address:

http://www.who.ch/programmes/dap/DAP_Homepage.html

Action Programme on Essential Drugs

Available free of charge

Essential Drugs: Action for Equity

1992, 27 pages. Eng, Fre, Spa
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/92.5

A review of the development of the essential drugs concept, this brochure examines the different components of a national drug policy and some of the problems currently faced by developing countries in the procurement, distribution and use of drugs. It also examines the role of the Action Programme on Essential Drugs, particularly concerning its country and information support, and assesses the outlook for the world drug situation.

Action Programme on Essential Drugs: Biennial and Annual Interim Reports

Available from 1990

The reports provide details of the major areas of work undertaken by the Action Programme on Essential Drugs. They show how the Programme reviews its strategies and priorities to ensure that it meets the new challenges presented by continuing developments in the pharmaceutical sector, and the changing global political and economic situation.

Essential Drugs Monitor

Twice a year. Eng, Fre, Rus, Spa

This is a periodical which covers national drug policy and essential drugs programmes worldwide. Regular features include rational use of drugs, supply, operational research and public education, together with reviews of relevant publications. The following theme issues have been published: No.7 (1988) Rational drug use, No.8 (1989) Development of essential drugs programmes in Latin America, No.10 (1990) Disaster relief, No.11 (1991) Research, No.12 (1991) National drug policies, No.13 (1992) Collaboration, No.14 (1993) Drug use research, No.17 (1994) Drug promotion, No.18 (1994) Public education, No.19 (1995) Drug information, No.20 (1995) Training in therapeutics, No.21 (1996) Drug donations, No.22 (1996) Change in the pharmaceutical sector. The *Monitor* is aimed at policy makers, prescribers, health educators, administrators, researchers and all organizations working in the pharmaceutical sector.

World Health: Essential Drugs

1992, March/April Issue, 13 pages. Ara,
Eng, Fre, Por, Rus, Spa

This issue of the WHO magazine is devoted to essential drugs, and includes articles on the implementation of essential drugs policies in Nigeria and Bhutan, the overuse of antibiotics and injections, inappropriate drug donations, and the need for greater involvement in health care.

Action Programme on Essential Drugs

East and Central African Essential Drugs Programmes Management Meeting.

Lilongwe/Salima, 20-24 June 1994

1994, 53 pages. Eng

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/94.20

This is a report of a meeting, organized by the Action Programme on Essential Drugs, which reviewed the current status of the sub-region's essential drugs programmes. Discussions focused on the programmes' sustainability, the effects of structural adjustment programmes, health financing mechanisms, the changing role of central medical stores, donor coordination and cooperation on health issues. The document includes the 12 country reports presented at the meeting.

WHO Action Programme on Essential Drugs in the South-East Asia Region.

Report of an Inter-country Consultative Meeting. New Delhi, 4-8 March 1991

1991, 49 pages. Eng

Ref.no. SEA/Drugs/83 Rev.1

This is a report of a meeting which reviewed essential drugs programmes in South-East Asian countries over the previous 10 years, identified future trends, and prepared an outline of national and regional plans for WHO collaboration up to 1995.

National drug policy

Available free of charge

Report of the WHO Expert Committee on National Drug Policies.

Contribution to Updating the WHO Guidelines for Developing National Drug Policies. Geneva, 19-23 June 1995
1995, 78 pages. Eng, Fre
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/95.9

This report of the work of a WHO Expert Committee is in two parts. It begins by tracing the history of WHO's role in helping to develop national drug policies. The document then describes the Committee's review of the major components which it felt should be considered in developing and implementing such policies. The revised text of the guidelines produced by the Committee follows. The guidelines cover: legislation, regulation, selection, supply, quality assurance, rational use of drugs, economic strategies for drugs, monitoring and evaluation, research, human resources development and technical cooperation among countries. The publication is intended to provide general principles and strategies that should be adapted to country needs.

Collaboration and Coordination in National Drug Policy Development

1995, 61 pages. Eng, Fre
Ref.no. DAP/MAC(7)95.7

Due to economic circumstances and increasing donor interest in supporting pharmaceuticals, the impact of cooperation on the success of national drug policy development has increased. This document examines the issues surrounding collaboration and coordination in the development of national drug policies. Eleven country case studies are used to illustrate the development of national drug policies, and examine the nature of collaboration and coordination in these countries. The main challenge is seen to be a scale of activity which is insufficient to meet needs, rather than lack of collaborative activities. The document concludes with suggestions for improving the current situation.

Pharmaceutical Policy of the Andean Sub-region.

The Andean Seminar/Workshop on Drug Policies. Cartagena, 24-26 March, 1993
1993, 26 pages. Eng, Spa
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/93.7

The document provides an outline of the consensus which has been reached in the Andean countries on a common pharmaceutical policy. The policy is based on the promotion of essential drugs as the best approach from the public health viewpoint. This is supplemented by the promotion of generic drugs as the best commercial alternatives. The publication then describes various aspects of pharmaceutical policy, including legislation, selection, quality assurance, supply and logistics, financing, rational drug use, industrial development and a common Andean drug market.

Meeting of Regional Experts on the Formulation and Implementation of National Drug Policies and Pharmaceutical Master Plans.

Meeting Report. Brazzaville,
26-30 April 1993

1993, 19 pages. Eng, Fre

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/93.9

In order to accelerate the development of national drug policies in Africa, where coverage of essential drugs is low, the Action Programme on Essential Drugs organized a meeting of regional experts to draft a guide for the formulation and implementation of national drug policies and pharmaceutical master plans. The document covers the "what, why and how" of formulation and implementation, includes a definition of terms and a bibliography. It includes the conditions and factors to be considered, and the steps to be followed, in developing and executing coherent national drug policies. The proposed contents of both the national drug policy guidelines manual, and the pharmaceutical master plan guidelines manual agreed on by the regional experts are then described.

Séminaire régional du Programme OMS d'Action pour les Médicaments essentiels à l'intention des pays francophones et lusophones de l'Afrique de l'Ouest.

Cotonou, 21-25 June 1993

(Action Programme on Essential Drugs' Regional Seminar for the French and Portuguese-speaking Countries of West Africa)

1993, 34 pages. Fre

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/93.11

This is a report of a workshop to discuss and review the draft document prepared at the Brazzaville meeting (see above). The workshop was attended by directors of health and pharmaceutical services from 11 francophone and lusophone countries in the West African sub-region.

Séminaire régional du Programme OMS d'Action pour les Médicaments essentiels à l'intention des pays francophones et lusophones de l'Afrique centrale et australe.

Brazzaville, 20-24 September 1993

(Action Programme on Essential Drugs' Regional Seminar for French and Portuguese-speaking Countries in Central and Southern Africa)

1993, 36 pages. Fre

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/93.12

This is a report of the second workshop held to review the draft document drawn up at the earlier Brazzaville meeting (see above). The workshop was attended by directors of health and pharmaceutical services from 15 countries in the sub-region.

National drug policy

National Drug Policy Documents

Copies of recent National Drug Policies, such as those from Australia (1992), Kenya (1994), Malawi (1991), South Africa (1996) and Zimbabwe (1994) are available from the Action Programme on Essential Drugs.

(NB. The Action Programme has a reference collection of over 40 National Drug Policies and can make individual copies available on specific request).

Priced publications

Guidelines for Developing National Drug Policies.

(New edition in preparation)

1988, 52 pages. Eng, Fre, Spa
ISBN 92 4 154230 6

Sw.fr.11-/US\$9.90, and in developing countries Sw.fr.7.70

The publication begins with a detailed explanation of the various components of a national drug policy, moving from the need for a legal framework to consideration of costs, the selection and approval of products, procedures for drug procurement and distribution, and measures for quality control. Other chapters concentrate on specific issues that can influence the workability of a national drug policy, including legal factors, the impact of drug information and promotion on supply and use, action that can support the appropriate use of drugs, and measures to promote safe and rational self-medication.

Indicators for Monitoring National Drug Policies

P. Brudon-Jakobowicz, J.D. Rainhorn,
M.R. Reich

1994, 205 pages. Eng, Fre

Order no. 1930066

Sw.fr.25-/US\$22.50, and in developing countries Sw.fr.17.50

Many countries today are formulating and implementing comprehensive national pharmaceutical policies. However, no effective and accepted tools existed at the global or country level to monitor progress in the their implementation. This manual has been developed to meet that need. It contains a comprehensive set of simple, objective and reliable indicators that will allow countries and international agencies to: assess a country's capacity to implement the various elements of a national drug policy; to monitor the processes by which a policy is implemented and the changes over a period of time; and to measure progress towards the achievement of objectives, allowing decision makers to adjust strategies accordingly. The manual is designed for use primarily by senior managers.

Available free of charge

La Selección de Medicamentos. Políticas de Autorización de Productos Farmacéuticos.

Documento de la Reunion de Expertos
de la Subregion Andina. Quito,
9-11 December 1992

(Drug Selection. Authorization Policy for
Pharmaceutical Products)

1993, 30 pages. Spa

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/93.2

In the Andean sub-region pressure has increased to simplify and even eliminate pre-marketing authorization of drugs, partly on the grounds of deregulating economic activities and reducing state intervention in private enterprise. This document argues that a good system of pre-marketing authorization for pharmaceuticals is not only essential for protecting public health but also strengthens industrial growth, by raising the credibility of the industry in the eyes of the public and potential importers. The publication describes the current situation, counters the main arguments against pre-marketing authorization and outlines the prerequisites for its successful implementation.

Rational Drug Use: Consumer Education and Information

D.A. Fresle

1996, 50 pages. Eng. (Executive summary and
conclusions available in French)

Ref.no. DAP/MAC/(8)96.6

Many constraints and difficulties are faced by countries and organizations undertaking public education in drug use. This paper focuses on practical emerging issues and dilemmas, aiming to trigger discussion on key questions, such as the need for this type of education, its priority, its content, underlying principles and target population. Topics covered include trends in consumer education and advocacy, communication skills for health care providers, educating children on medicines, and patient leaflets. The evolution of the Action Programme on Essential Drugs' public education activities is described, and the final section presents the preliminary findings of the Programme's Global Survey on Public Education in Drug Use.

Estimating Drug Requirements: A Practical Manual

1988, 136 pages. Eng, Fre, Spa

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/88.2

The manual consists of eight training modules. Modules in the first part are intended to help readers understand the evaluations and decisions that must be made before quantification can begin. The second part provides an explanation of the patient morbidity standard treatment method of quantification. Modules provide illustrative standard drug treatment schedules for quantification based on average doses, an explanation of methods for data acquisition, and calculation procedures. Similar information is presented for the adjusted consumption method.

Selection and use

Public Education in Rational Drug Use.

Report of an Informal Consultation.

Geneva, 23-26 November 1993

1994, 29 pages. Eng, Fre

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/94.1

The report provides a brief review of the Action Programme on Essential Drugs' activities and approaches to public education, and proposes a strategy for the Programme's future work in this area. It reviews the need for public education in drug use, sets out guiding principles for its involvement, and its role at national and international levels. The document also includes the outline of a protocol for an Action Programme development and research project on public drug education initiatives. The results will be used to produce a practical manual for education intervention strategies in rational drug use.

Rational Use of Drugs in the South-East Asia Region.

Report of an Intercountry Consultative Meeting, New Delhi, 7-11 June 1993

1994, 36 pages. Eng

SEA/Drugs/100

This conference report includes information on the current status of the essential drugs programmes in 10 countries in the Region, with special reference to rational drug use. It contains participants' recommendations on ways to promote rational drug use at national and regional levels. Strategies include a strong commitment to essential drugs lists, standard treatment regimes, the provision of objective drug information, criteria for ethical drug promotion, and the development of hospital therapeutic committees. High priority was also given to intercountry exchange of information on activities to promote the appropriate use of drugs.

Producing National Drug and Therapeutic Information.

The Malawi Approach to Developing Standard Treatment Guidelines

C.J. Forshaw

1995, 42 pages. Eng

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/94.14

Essential drugs lists, standard treatment guidelines and national formularies are vital reference texts for any country or health institution striving to rationalize the treatment of disease and use of drugs. This report describes in detail the process of production of Malawi's Standard Treatment Guidelines. Advice is given on all aspects of the production process - from choice of software to design, layout and launch of a publication. Although this is only one type of therapeutics information publication, many of the steps followed, experiences gained, problems faced and lessons learned in the process are applicable to production of similar documents in any (developing) country.

Priced publications

Clinical Pharmacology. The European Challenge.

WHO Regional Publications,
European Series No. 39

1991, 84 pages. Eng

ISBN 92 890 1302 8

Sw.fr.16.50-/US\$14.85, and in developing
countries Sw.fr.11.55

The publication reports the results of a survey on the academic status of clinical pharmacology in the medical schools and health ministries of 21 European countries. It begins with three articles assessing the status of clinical pharmacology in Europe. The main part of the book consists of brief reports on the organization and teaching of clinical pharmacology in the medical schools in each of the 21 countries. Points covered include the recognition of clinical pharmacology as a speciality, number of posts and departments and future plans.

The Rational Use of Drugs. Report of the Conference of Experts.

Nairobi, 25-29 November 1985

1987, 329 pages. Chi, Eng, Fre, Rus, Spa

ISBN 92 4 156105 X

Sw.fr.52-/US\$46.80, and in developing
countries Sw.fr.36.40

The publication provides an overview of the points debated during this landmark international conference on rational drug use. It summarizes the widely divergent views expressed, ranging from how to improve information to prescribers and consumers and how to ensure that ethical criteria for advertising are observed, to whether the high price of some drugs can be attributed to the costs of research and development. The publication includes 17 working papers and national case studies from Bangladesh, Hungary, Kenya, Mexico, Norway and the United Kingdom.

The Use of Essential Drugs.

Model List of Essential Drugs (Ninth List)

Technical Report Series No. 867

1997, 74 pages. Eng (Fre and Rus in preparation)

ISBN 92 4 120867 8

Sw.fr.15-/US\$13.50, and in developing countries
Sw.fr.10.50

This is the seventh report of the WHO Expert Committee and it is intended to guide the selection of drugs in countries where the need is great and the resources are small. The first part provides updated information on several components of national drug policy necessary to assure that essential drugs are always available, in adequate amounts and in the correct dosage. The model list is then presented, organized according to therapeutic group. The list includes information on route of administration, dosage forms, and strengths for each of some 300 essential drugs.

The Use of Common Stems in the Selection of International Nonproprietary Names (INN) for Pharmaceutical Substances

1996, 109 pages. Eng

Order No.1931083

Sw.fr.18-/US\$16.20, and in developing
countries Sw.fr.12.60

This is a list of common stems for international nonproprietary names for pharmaceutical substances for which chemical or pharmacological categories have been established. The publication is in two main parts, the first gives common stems and their definitions for 23 categories of drugs, and the second provides an alphabetical list of recommended stems and the corresponding family of INNs.

Selection and use

WHO Model Prescribing Information Series

The series provides illustrative source material for adaptation by national authorities who wish to develop national drug formularies, drug compendia and similar material.

Drugs Used in Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV Infection

1995, 97 pages. Eng (Fre and Spa in preparation)
ISBN 92 4 140105 2
Sw.fr.25-/US\$22.50, and in developing countries Sw.fr.17.50

The publication guides the selection and prescribing of drugs in line with the latest information on efficacy, safety and cost. The most extensive section is on HIV infection and AIDS and it includes a description of the typical clinical course of 13 common infections, emphasising opportunities for drug management.

Drugs Used in Parasitic Diseases (2nd ed.)

1995, 146 pages. Eng (Fre and Spa in preparation)
ISBN 92 4 140104 4
Sw.fr.35-/US\$31.50, and in developing countries Sw.fr.24.50

The publication gives information on drugs used for the prevention and treatment of protozoal and helminthic infections. These include filarial infections, the leishmaniases, malaria, schistosomiasis and the trypanosomiases.

Drugs Used in Mycobacterial Diseases

1991, 40 pages. Eng, Fre, Spa
ISBN 92 4 140103 6
Sw.fr.9-/US\$8.10, and in developing countries Sw.fr.6.30

The publication provides model prescribing information for 13 essential drugs used for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis, for the treatment of leprosy and for the treatment of diseases caused by non tuberculous mycobacteria. These include localised cutaneous lesions, pulmonary disease, lymphadenitis and disseminated disease.

Drugs Used in Anaesthesia

1989, 53 pages. Eng, Fre
ISBN 92 4 14101 X
Sw.fr.11-/US\$9.90, and in developing countries Sw.fr.7.70

The publication provides up-to-date and objective information on the correct and safe prescribing of essential drugs used in anaesthesia. The information has general applicability but is particularly relevant to developing countries, where limited availability of equipment, training and skills must be considered when recommending safe practice. Prepared by WHO in collaboration with the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists, the publication includes model information sheets for 31 drugs.

Available free of charge

Guidelines for Drug Donations

Interagency Guidelines

1996, 14 pages. Eng, Fre, Rus, Spa

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/96.2

In order to help both donors and recipients to maximize the potential benefits of drug donations, WHO has been working with the major relief agencies to develop donation guidelines. The document begins with a discussion on the need for guidelines, followed by the four core principles for drug donations: they should benefit the recipient to the maximum extent possible; respect the wishes and authority of the recipient, and support existing government policies; there should be no double standards in quality; and there should be effective communication between the donor and the recipient. The guidelines are then presented along with possible exceptions to these where necessary. The document also provides some suggestions on other ways donors may help, and the final chapter contains practical advice on how to implement a policy on drug donations.

General Guidelines on Drug Procurement and Distribution Appropriate for Developing Countries

Yeap Boon Chye

1988, 23 pages. Eng, Fre

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/88.11

This booklet provides guidelines for establishing and strengthening the procurement and distribution elements of national drug programmes. It summarizes current systems, details some of the major advantages of alternative approaches, and gives the main requirements in terms of facilities, procedures, and staffing levels to implement and operate these systems.

Le secteur pharmaceutique dans les pays de la zone CFA

(The Pharmaceutical Sector in the Countries of the CFA)

P. Brudon, C. Pénicaud

1995, 96 pages. Fre

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/95.8

This document analyses the effects of the January 1994 devaluation of the Communauté financière d'Afrique (CFA) franc on the pharmaceutical sector. The impact on the sector was particularly bad because of its reliance on imports. The first part of the document gives a summary of the measures taken in the countries affected, and examines the situation several months after devaluation. The second part is an annex containing the standard form completed in each country, giving background country information and details of the pharmaceutical sector. These cover financing, organization, the impact of devaluation on drug prices and measures taken to reduce that impact.

How to Estimate Warehouse Space for Drugs

A. Battersby, A. Garnett

1993, 90 pages. Eng

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/93.3

A guide for those responsible for planning and organizing pharmaceutical purchasing at national and regional levels, the manual describes the technical procedure for store sizing and sets it within the broader context of drug purchasing, inventory control and stock administration. Recording data, calculating volumes and environmental requirements are among the topics covered.

Supply and marketing

Drug Supply by Ration Kits: Report of an Evaluation

H. Haak, H.V. Hogerzeil
1991, 96 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/91.2

This report describes experiences with drug supply systems based on ration kits. It considers their impact, identifies problems, and evaluates possible solutions. The publication concludes with an assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of kit systems and the conditions under which a kit system can operate successfully.

Priced publications

Managing Drug Supply (2nd ed.)

Management Sciences for Health
in collaboration with WHO
1997, 832 pages. Eng
ISBN 1-56549-047-9

US\$84.95 (developed countries),
US\$29.95 (developing countries)*
Available from: Kumarian Press,
14 Oakwood Avenue, West Hartford,
CT 06119-2127, USA.

* Single copies are available free of charge
to developing countries from
DAP's Documentation Centre.

The book provides a complete overview as well as step-by-step approaches on how to manage pharmaceutical systems effectively. It contains substantially revised sections on selection, procurement, distribution and use, and new or considerably expanded sections on pharmaceutical policy, financing, organization, management information systems and human resources management.

Emergency Relief Items.

Compendium of Basic Specifications,

Vol.2
UNDP, WHO
1996, 233 pages. Eng
US\$60

Available from: United Nations
Development Programme, Inter-Agency
Procurement Services Office, Midtermolen 3,
P.O. Box 2530, DK-2100 Copenhagen,
Denmark.

The catalogue is intended to facilitate the acquisition of suitable relief items from as many qualified suppliers as feasible, in a cost efficient manner. It provides guidance on medical supplies and equipment, selected essential drugs, and drug donations. The publication is aimed at donor governments and relief organizations as well as all those in recipient countries concerned with the planning, budgeting and execution of emergency operations.

The New Emergency Health Kit

1990, 44 pages. Eng, Fre, Spa

Order no. 1930018

Sw.fr.8-/US\$7.20, and in developing countries Sw.fr.5.60

This booklet provides background information on the development of the kit, now adopted by many organizations and national authorities as a reliable, standardized, inexpensive, appropriate and quickly available source of the essential drugs and health equipment urgently needed in a disaster situation. It provides a description of the kit's contents, treatment guidelines for prescribers and some useful checklists for suppliers and users.

Ethical Criteria for Medicinal Drug Promotion

1988, 16 pages. Ara, Chi, Eng, Fre, Rus, Spa

ISBN 92 4 154239 X

Sw.fr.8-/US\$7.20, and in developing countries Sw.fr.5.60

These criteria, which are based on a draft prepared by an international group of experts, constitute a frame of reference for judging proper behaviour in drug promotion, whether involving the contents of advertisements and package inserts or the sponsorship of scientific symposia, and the use of representatives. The criteria give manufacturers, distributors, the promotion industry, prescribers and consumer groups a framework to ensure that promotional practices are in keeping with acceptable ethical standards.

The World Drug Situation.

(New edition in preparation)

1988, 123 pages. Fre (English version out of print. Xerox copies are available from the Action Programme on Essential Drugs) ISBN 92 4 156114 9

Sw.fr.20-/US\$18, and in developing countries Sw.fr.14

The report emphasizes factors that can help gauge the extent to which drugs are performing an effective role in society and in health care. Conditions and trends in both the public and private sectors, at national and global levels, governing under- and over-medication, are discussed. A number of factors, which are likely to influence the future are examined - such as the growth in the number of generic producers and the increasing complexity of research and development. The second part profiles the drug situation in individual countries: using a set of 10 indicators, it groups 104 developing countries according to three different levels of coverage. The book concludes with an overview of the drug situation in industrialized countries.

Available free of charge

Report of a Meeting on the Optimal Use of Regional Drug Quality Control Laboratories in Africa.

Niamey, 8-12 November 1993
1994, 53 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/94.10

The use of the four Regional Drug Quality Control Laboratories in Sub-Saharan Africa has been limited. The Action Programme on Essential Drugs and WHO's Regional Office for Africa therefore organized a meeting to assess the status of the laboratories, to define their precise role in a drug quality assurance system and to consider their future. The meeting report covers discussions on the main problems of regional laboratories, criteria and lists of drugs to be controlled, financing mechanisms, and how to facilitate information exchange. The report includes a series of recommendations for action to be taken by regional laboratories, national authorities, and WHO and other international agencies.

WHO/UNICEF Study on the Stability of Drugs During International Transport

1991, 68 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/91.1

A study of three shipments of essential drugs, sent from Nigeria, Uganda (overland from Mombassa) and Thailand. Temperature and humidity within the test kits were monitored every three hours. The potency and quality of the drugs were measured before and after shipment. This report includes a detailed description of the materials and methods used, the full results of the quality analysis of the drugs, a reference list and bibliography.

Priced publications

WHO Expert Committee on Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations.

Technical Report Series No. 863, 34th Report
1996, 194 pages. Eng, Fre (Spa in preparation)
ISBN 92 4 120863 5
Sw.fr.35-/US\$31.50, and in developing
countries Sw.fr.24.50

The report sets out 12 international guidelines and other recommendations intended to assist national drug regulatory authorities and manufacturers in the quality control of pharmaceutical products. The most extensive guidelines concern global standards and requirements for the regulatory assessment, marketing authorization and quality control of multisource drugs. The report also contains a section on stability testing, revised guidelines for implementation of the WHO Certification Scheme on the Quality of Pharmaceutical Products Moving in International Commerce, and advice on good manufacturing practices.

WHO Expert Committee on Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations.

Technical Report Series No. 834, 33rd Report 1993, 30 pages. Eng, Fre, Spa
ISBN 92 4 120834 1
Sw.fr.7-/US\$6.30, and in developing countries Sw.fr.4.90

The publication provides a progress report on a number of WHO sponsored activities designed to support a comprehensive approach to the quality assurance of pharmaceutical products. Topics discussed include the continuing development of the International Pharmacopoeia, the establishment of International Chemical Reference Substances and International Infrared Reference Spectra, and the problem of the substandard quality of several widely used drug substances. The report also issues recommendations concerning the small-scale preparation of eye drops, and a warning concerning the production of oral and injectable hormonal contraceptives, in the absence of well established local programmes of drug regulation and quality assurance. Annexed to the report are updated lists of available Chemical Reference Substances and International Infrared Reference Spectra.

WHO Expert Committee on Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations.

Technical Report Series No. 823, 32nd Report 1992, 134 pages. Eng, Fre, Spa
ISBN 92 4 120823 6
Sw.fr.17-/US\$15.30, and in developing countries Sw.fr.11.90

The report issues five sets of detailed guidelines intended to assist drug regulatory authorities in implementing a rigorous, comprehensive system for the quality control of pharmaceutical products. Focused on key components in a national system for quality assurance, the guidelines set out up-to-date principles, procedures, standards and requirements that can assist both regulators and manufacturers in their efforts to control the safety, quality, potency and efficacy of pharmaceutical products.

Available free of charge

The Uruguay Round and Drugs

WHO Task Force on Health Economics
C.M. Correa
1997, 31 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/THFE/97.1

The GATT Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) may have serious implications for the production of and access to drugs, especially in developing countries. This paper comments on the possible effects, focusing on major patent provisions, undisclosed information, transitional periods, and the settlement of disputes.

Guide d'analyse économique du circuit du médicament

(Guide to Economic Analysis of the Pharmaceutical Sector)
J. Dumoulin, M. Kaddar, G. Velasquez
1995, 74 pages. Fre, Spa
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/95.2

The socioeconomic dimensions of drug use have assumed increasing importance, and this timely publication provides a basic theoretical and conceptual economic framework for those in the pharmaceutical sector not trained in economics. Produced in collaboration with the National Centre for Scientific Research in Grenoble, France, the manual focuses on economic aspects of selection, procurement, distribution and prescribing. It is particularly aimed at those in national bodies responsible for defining and guiding health policies on drugs, and those responsible for drug procurement and management at national level. Staff of international agencies and nongovernmental organizations in the pharmaceutical sector will also find the book useful.

Access to Drugs and Finance

J. Dumoulin, M. Kaddar, G. Velasquez
1991, 79 pages. Eng, Fre, Spa
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/91.5

Economic and financial constraints have a great influence on drug policy, and current recession and structural adjustment policies have made them particularly important considerations. The Action Programme on Essential Drugs has, therefore, developed a framework to allow economic and financial analysis of pharmaceutical policies based on the essential drugs strategy. This document provides national managers of pharmaceutical sectors with tools to evaluate their country's situation. It also provides information on national drug accounts, financial data gathering and alternative methods of funding drug supply.

Alternative Drug Pricing Policies in the Americas.

Health Economics and Drugs. DAP Series No. 1
A. Z. Sarmiento
1995, 32 pages. Eng, Spa
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/95.6

This publication assesses the effects, advantages and disadvantages of different schemes for fixing drug prices in the Americas. The first chapter contains a detailed review of the economic theory of managed prices relevant to pharmaceutical products. Pricing systems that have given the best results to date are then examined. These are judged in terms of ensuring drug availability and people's access to drugs - irrespective of income level, therapeutic needs or location.

The Public and Private Circuits for the Distribution of Drugs in the Chilean Health System.

Health Economics and Drugs. DAP Series No. 2
J.I. Arango, P. Carlevaro, G. Velasquez
1996, 45 pages. Eng
WHO/DAP/96.1

A joint DAP/UNICEF study is being developed to analyse and evaluate drug management and distribution systems in a number of developing countries. The study aims to define the constraints on the effectiveness of the drug distribution system, in order to improve accessibility and the quality of health services generally. This document describes the Chilean drug system, with particular emphasis on the public and private role in the drug sector. Chapters cover the country's health situation, health policy and strategy, the pharmaceutical sector, distribution system and rational use of drugs.

Latin American Conference on Economic and Financial Aspects of Essential Drugs.

Caracas, March 1992
1992, 94 pages. Eng, Spa
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/92.8

In the context of socioeconomic and political developments in Latin America, the Conference looked at new ways of financing drugs, to ensure greater accessibility and equity in their supply. The main recommendation in the conference report was that the Latin American countries must adopt programmes for the supply of generic drugs. In order to make this proposal viable, the report describes a series of complementary measures, framed in an overall health policy in which the state would play a fundamental role.

Procurement and Financing of Essential Drugs.

Report of a Meeting on Drug Policies and Drug Management. Madrid, 22-26 October 1984
1984, 86 pages. Eng, Fre, Spa
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/84.5

The report contains four working papers on: health care financing; procurement and financing of essential drugs; financing and control of pharmaceutical spending; and price determination of pharmaceutical products. Different forms of procurement and financing, standardization and efficiency in procurement, and price trends of essential drugs are discussed.

Priced publication

Pharmaceutical Raw Materials Essential Drugs Report

Monthly update. Eng
Annual subscription: US\$350
Available from: International Trade Centre/UNCTAD/WTO, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

A publication, sponsored by the Action Programme on Essential Drugs, providing information on purchasing prices of raw materials for the production of essential drugs. The data are intended to enhance the procurement and negotiating tools of local manufacturers, especially in developing countries where this type of information is difficult to obtain.

Human resources and training

Available free of charge

The Role of the Pharmacist in the Health Care System

1994, 48 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/PHARM 94.569

This publication reports on two WHO meetings, one held in New Delhi in 1988 and the other in Tokyo in 1993, which examined the role of pharmacists and made recommendations on how to optimize their use in health care systems. The Delhi consultative group meeting considered the scope and functions of pharmacy, whereas in Japan the focus was on the responsibilities of the pharmacist to the health care needs of the patient and the community.

Priced publication

Guide to Good Prescribing

T.P.G.M. de Vries, R.H. Henning,
H.V. Hogerzeil, D.A. Fresle
1994, 108 pages. Eng, Fre
(Rus and Spa in preparation)
Order no. 1930074
Sw.fr.15-/US\$13.50, and in developing
countries Sw.fr.10.50

Bad prescribing habits lead to ineffective and unsafe treatment, exacerbation or prolongation of illness, distress and harm to the patient, and higher costs. This training manual provides step-by-step guidance to rational prescribing and teaches skills that are not time-limited. The publication explains the principles of drug selection and how to develop a set of drugs for regular use in practice. Practical examples show how to select, prescribe and monitor treatment, and how to communicate effectively with patients. Although intended primarily for undergraduate medical students about to enter the clinical phase of their studies, postgraduate students and practising doctors may also find it valuable.

Available free of charge

**Sri Lanka Essential Drugs Project.
Review and Analysis of the Current
Drug Situation. Proposal and Plan
of Action for 1994-1998**

1993, 81 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/94.9

The WHO Mission to Sri Lanka, reported here, reviewed, assessed and analysed the current situation and identified priority issues relating to pharmaceuticals. The review team found that the country has made notable progress in areas of drug policy and management. The document includes a plan of action for the Project, with the focus on the development and strengthening of drug regulatory control, quality control, rational drug use and staff training.

**Guidelines for Evaluating an
Essential Drugs Programme**

1985, 60 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/85.8

The first part of the document examines procedures for evaluation of an essential drugs programme, and consists of a number of questions which are useful in measuring programme effectiveness and efficiency. The second part, a manual for conducting an evaluation of an essential drugs programme, outlines the necessary steps involved. It also discusses how to establish a country evaluation protocol.

**Evaluation of the Yemen Arab
Republic Essential Drugs Programme**

1991, 80 pages. Eng
Ref.no. DAP/92.10

An evaluation which found that although progress had been made, the impact of the Essential Drugs Programme on the availability of safe and effective drugs in Yemen has been limited. The document contains suggestions which could increase its effectiveness in a second phase from 1993-1996. Central to this is the adoption of a national drug policy and increased political support for the Programme. It is recommended that more attention is paid to rational drug use, health workers' training, the provision of independent drug information and health education for the general public.

(NB. Other evaluation documents are available on request).

Legislation and regulation

Available free of charge

Registration of Pharmaceuticals, Tanzania.

Extracts from a Report on the Pharmacy
Board, Tanzania

G. Kristinsdottir

1991, 17 pages. Eng

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/92.12

The report details important aspects of pharmaceutical registration which should be explicitly stipulated in legislation, steps in the registration procedure of pharmaceuticals, required documentation which should be submitted with each application, and the role of Tanzania's Committee on Medicines, which advises the Pharmaceutical Board on drug registration matters. Annexes include a sample application form for registration of a drug. The recommendations are applicable to many national situations.

Priced publication

Regulation of Pharmaceuticals in Developing Countries: Legal Issues and Approaches

(New edition in preparation)

D.C. Jayasuriya

1985, 118 pages. Ara, Eng, Fre, Spa

ISBN 92 4 156089 4

Sw.fr.14-/US\$12.60, and in developing
countries Sw.fr.9.80

The publication provides a detailed explanation of laws and legal frameworks necessary to assure that safe, effective and inexpensive drugs of good quality reach consumers in developing countries. Intended for policy makers and administrators, the book provides the basis for understanding each step involved in the formulation and implementation of an effective national drug policy. As well as procedural steps in the formulation and finalization of a law, the publication covers legal measures for controlling the advertising, marketing, sales and distribution of pharmaceuticals. Case studies illustrate the practical problems which can arise with different components of drug legislation.

Available free of charge**Action Programme on Essential Drugs
Research Series****No. 1. Injection practices research**

1992, 61 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/92.9

This is a report on two informal workshops which were part of a collaborative research project on the use of injections in Indonesia, Senegal and Uganda, and which arose from concern about widespread inessential and unhygienic use of injections in developing countries. The workshops resulted in a series of revised country research protocols, which have been standardized with respect to core data collection instruments and data analysis techniques.

**No. 2. How to investigate drug use
in communities**

A. Hardon, P. Brudon-Jakobowicz,
A.V. Reeler
1992, 43 pages. Eng, Fre
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/92.3

This guide provides researchers, health workers and administrators of health programmes with simple research methods to identify problems in the provision and use of drugs at community level. It also aims to encourage them to work together in developing action oriented research projects. The guide first discusses relevant research themes, then presents a rapid assessment methodology, and finally gives more general methodological suggestions for field research on community drug provision and use.

**No. 3. Operational research on
the rational use of drugs**

P.K.M. Lunde, G. Tognoni, G. Tomson
1992, 38 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/92.4

This is a report of an international conference, held in Paris, in March 1991 which brought together people wanting to improve the coordination of strategies in operational research related to the rational use of drugs. The presentations given at the meeting covered the type of research being undertaken, methods, disciplines involved, problems encountered and results. The conference clearly identified the need for strengthening existing research networks, and for better coordination and harmonization among the various actors. The Action Programme on Essential Drugs was encouraged to take the lead in developing, promoting and coordinating future activities.

**No. 4. Development of indicators
for monitoring national drug policies**

Replaced by *Indicators for monitoring
national drug policies*, see page 7.

No. 5. People's perceptions and use of drugs in Zimbabwe

N. Nyazema, O. Kasilo, D. Chavunduka
1992, 9 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/92.7

The findings of a sociocultural research project to learn more about consumers' attitudes and behavioural patterns with regard to allopathic and traditional medicines are presented in this report. Researchers collected data on socioeconomic characteristics, the availability and cost of medicines, sources of knowledge about health care and actions taken to treat recent illness in the family. The report's most important conclusions are in the field of methodology.

No. 6. Operational research in the Action Programme on Essential Drugs

1992, 11 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/92.13

This is a report of an informal consultation which reviewed the policies, objectives and strategies of The Action Programme on Essential Drugs' operational research component. Major recommendations are that country specific research projects should continue and be integrated into the programmes of collaboration between the Action Programme and the country concerned. At global level, the Programme should lead and influence research related to drug policy, selection, supply, distribution, financing and use.

No. 7. How to investigate drug use in health facilities: selected drug use indicators, see priced publication below.

No. 8. Stability of injectable oxytocics in tropical climates.

Results of field surveys and simulation studies on ergometrine, methylegometrine and oxytocin
H.V. Hogerzeil, G.J.A. Walker, M.J. de Goeje
1993, 42 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/93.6

This publication reports the findings of field surveys and simulation studies on ergometrine, methylegometrine and oxytocin, which are used in the treatment and prevention of excessive uterine bleeding after childbirth. Previous research had indicated problems with their stability under tropical conditions. The report shows that the stability of oxytocin is better than that of the two other drugs, mainly because it is not so sensitive to exposure to light. A series of recommendations are made on the procurement, storage and quality control of all the drugs studied.

No. 9. Prescription des antibiotiques dans trois pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest. Mauritanie, Niger et Sénégal

(Antibiotic prescribing in three West African countries, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal)
1993, 95 pages. Fre
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/93.4

As concern over the misuse of antibiotics increases, this publication reports on a project which analysed prescriptions for antibiotics for bacterial infections in three African countries. In particular it assessed the possibility of establishing a list of a small number of essential antibiotics with antibacterial and pharmacokinetic properties, and modes of administration which seem best suited to the prevailing epidemiological situation. The report makes detailed recommendations on improvements which could be made at central and regional hospital levels and also in ancillary health services.

No. 10. Self-medication and its impact on essential drugs schemes in Nepal.

A sociocultural research project

K.K. Kafle, R.P. Gartoulla

1994, 20 pages. Eng

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/93.10

This is a report of a research study which obtained information about various methods of self-care and medication from both consumers and providers. It also identified and evaluated intervention strategies for consumers and health providers in the private sector, to improve health standards. The emphasis is on the incorporation of key primary health care elements into the self-care system. The report also explores the options for community participation and community supervision in this system.

No. 11. Injection practices.

A case study of Thailand

A.V. Reeler, C. Hematorm

1994, 62 pages. Eng

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/94.8

The research study reported here examined the extent to which injections are sought by patients and administered by different types of health care providers in an urban and rural setting in Thailand. It also explored the causal and contextual factors behind the popular demand for injections, and ways of reducing that demand. The report's emphasis is on how the research results can be used to help improve the health of those in developing countries, by decreasing unsafe injection practices and their associated health risks.

No. 12. Stability of oral oxytocics in tropical climates

A.N.J.A. de Groot, T.B. Vree, H.V. Hogerzeil, G.J.A. Walker

1995, 43 pages. Eng

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/94.13

Postpartum haemorrhage is still one of the most common causes of maternal death, especially in developing countries. This publication reports on an assessment of stability patterns of common oral oxytocics to evaluate their usefulness in reducing postpartum haemorrhage in tropical areas. Simulation studies assessed the influence of packaging, humidity, light and heat on tablets of ergometrine, methylegometrine, buccal oxytocin and buccal desamino-oxytocin. Researchers concluded that none of those tested were stable under simulated tropical conditions. It is therefore unlikely that oral oxytocics can be effective in preventing postpartum haemorrhage in tropical climates.

No. 13. Stability of essential drugs in tropical climates: Zimbabwe

H. Nazerali, T. Muchemwa, H.V. Hogerzeil

1996, 77 pages. Eng

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/94.16

This is a report of a study which assessed the quality of 13 essential drugs commonly used in Zimbabwe. The research compared the quality of drugs at selected health centres and district hospitals with the initial quality measured in the central medical stores. It studied whether substandard drug quality is associated with duration of storage and conditions at facility level, with the transport method or with the drug manufacturer. The report includes the study design and methodology, results and practical recommendations for an effective quality assurance system.

No. 14. Injection use and practices in Uganda

H. Birungi, D. Asiimwe, S. Reynolds Whyte
1995, 45 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/94.18

This research project was initiated by the Action Programme on Essential Drugs as part of an international comparative research project into injection practices in developing countries. The report covers the study's methodology, the extent of injection use and the type and degree of improper practices in administering injections. A number of intervention strategies are recommended, including improved validation of providers' competence and a clean injection programme.

No. 15. Community health workers and drugs. A case study of Thailand

L. Sringeriyuang, T. Hongvivatana,
P. Pradabmuk
1995, 66 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/94.19

This is a report of a qualitative and quantitative study which analysed Thai community health workers' role in drug distribution at village level. In particular, it looked at the extent to which they affected rational drug use and the implications of community health workers receiving payment for drugs. The report concludes that a wide range of drugs is available from a variety of sources - making it difficult to improve drug use among the population. Recommendations include a public health education campaign on rational drug use and the development of community level primary health care, which is better adjusted to the needs of village populations.

No. 16. Use of the WHO Certification Scheme on the Quality of Pharmaceutical Products Moving in International Commerce

1994, 146 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/94.21

Recognizing the need to establish norms for Good Manufacturing Practices, the WHO Certification Scheme on the Quality of Pharmaceutical Products moving in International Commerce was introduced in 1969 and has since been extensively amended and expanded. In 1993 a research project began to assess the extent to which the Scheme is being applied and to identify the needs and concerns of Member States with regard to its application and use. This document reports the research results, which show that only two of the fifteen importing countries surveyed use the Scheme as recommended.

No. 17. Impact of a short course in pharmacotherapy for undergraduate medical students. An international multicentre study

T.P.G.M. de Vries et al.
1995, 19 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/95.1

The impact of a short interactive training course in pharmacotherapy, using the WHO manual, *Guide to Good Prescribing* (see page 19) was measured in a controlled study on medical students in seven countries. The report describes how the impact of the training course was measured by three tests, taken before the training, immediately after, and after six months. After attending the course, students from the study group performed significantly better than controls in all patient problems presented. Both retention and transfer effects were maintained for at least six months after the training session.

No. 18. La qualité des médicaments sur le marché pharmaceutique africain. Etude analytique dans trois pays: Cameroun, Madagascar, Tchad
(The quality of drugs on the African drug market)

1995, 68 pages. Fre
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/95.3

This is a report of a study conducted in French-speaking African countries to determine the extent to which drugs found on the African market were of appropriate quality. In the first phase a questionnaire was sent to 37 countries to investigate the mechanisms by which they ensured drug quality. The second phase studied drug samples in Cameroon, Chad and Madagascar. The publication shows that in all three countries there was a limited percentage of substandard drugs.

No. 19. Operational research projects in the Action Programme on Essential Drugs: an annotated inventory

1996, 88 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/96.3

This is an updated and revised edition of the inventory, in which DAP's research projects have been organized by four technical areas: policy and management, supply and logistics, rational use and quality assurance. The document contains information on each research project's aims, objectives and methodology, and where available summaries of research results and recommendations.

No. 20. Injection practices in the developing world

A. van Staa, A. Hardon
1997, 127 pages. Eng
Ref. no. WHO/DAP/96.4

This is a report of a comparative review of field studies in Uganda and Indonesia which examines the way injections are used, the sources from which they are obtained, indications for which they are given, and the extent of improper and unsafe practices in their administration. Details of a simple, rapid methodology developed to investigate injection use are included.

No. 21. Le secteur pharmaceutique privé commercial au Maroc

(The private pharmaceutical sector in Morocco)
1997, 44 pages. Fre
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/97.1

This is a report of a study which evaluated the extent of the private pharmaceutical sector's contribution to the availability, accessibility and rational use of drugs in Morocco. The study shows that the private sector is dominant and largely meets the country's drug requirements. The market is characterized by the wide availability of brand name products in a variety of forms. The researchers conclude that three main factors affect access to drugs: geographical location, income and the level of health insurance coverage.

No. 22. La libéralisation du secteur pharmaceutique en Algérie: effets sur la disponibilité et les prix des médicaments essentiels
(The liberalisation of the pharmaceutical sector in Algeria)

1997, 37 pages. Fre

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/97.2

This document focuses on the impact that liberalization of the pharmaceutical sector has had on the price and availability of essential drugs in Algeria, and on the organization of the sector - particularly on imports, and wholesale and retail distribution. The report is based on a three-year study at a sample of dispensaries, analysis of available data, and discussions with the main actors in the pharmaceutical sector. The study reveals significant price increases, drug shortages and problems of availability which vary depending on the region and the supplier.

No. 23. Le secteur pharmaceutique privé commercial au Sénégal
(The private pharmaceutical sector in Senegal)

1997, 37 pages. Fre

Ref.no. WHO/DAP/97.3

During 1993-1994 a team of doctors, pharmacists and economists studied the private pharmaceutical sector in the domestic market, and the extent to which this sector contributes to the accessibility and rational use of essential drugs in Senegal. This research report shows that the private sector makes up more than 80% of the official drug market, employing over 75% of the country's pharmacists. It reveals large regional differences between the area around Dakar, the capital, where most dispensaries are concentrated, and the rest of the country. In general, however, there is a high level of availability of essential drugs in dispensaries and a well functioning distribution network, the study concludes.

No. 24. Public education in rational drug use: a global survey

1997, 75 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/97.5

Public education interventions in rational drug use are rarely published or fully documented, so experiences cannot be shared or built on. To help close this gap the Action Programme on Essential Drugs conducted a global survey of such activities and interventions. Survey methodology included a search of standard literature databases and a questionnaire completed by some 100 projects in 25 developing and 13 developed countries. This report contains the data gathered and discusses the main problems and facilitating factors encountered by those implementing projects. It concludes that public education in rational drug use needs to be much better documented, evaluated and supported, and calls for technical, financial and collaborative support to be increased.

No. 25. Comparative analysis of national drug policies.

Second Workshop, Geneva, 10-13 June 1996
1997, 114 pages. Eng
Ref.no. WHO/DAP97.6

Very few studies have tried to compare national drug policies and to find out which have been successful - and why - in achieving the goals of availability, accessibility, good quality and rational use of drugs. This document describes the preliminary findings of such a study, as discussed at a workshop in June 1996. The report includes an explanation of the main research objectives, assesses the methodology used and outlines lessons learned to date in relation to policy development and implementation.

Priced publication**No. 7. How to investigate drug use in health facilities: selected drug use indicators**

1993, 87 pages. Eng, Fre, Spa
Order no. 1930049
Sw.fr.16-/US\$14.40, and in developing countries Sw.fr.11.20

The manual describes a simple standard methodology for gathering essential data on drug use patterns and prescribing behaviour in health facilities. The methodology centres on the use of 12 core indicators to gather pertinent data on the drug use situation. The manual also explains how the indicators, which measure prescribing practices, the quality of patient care and the availability of drugs, can be used as a simple tool for gathering objective, useful data quickly, easily and in a reproducible manner. Special data forms are provided for manual analysis or easy adaptation to a simple spreadsheet.

Reference material

Available free of charge

Therapeutic Information: A Global Overview. Essential Drugs Lists, Formularies and Treatment Guides

D.A. Fresle, K.S. Hurst, C. Forshaw
1996, 85 pages
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/95.7

This overview of scientifically validated therapeutic information and resource organizations explains why locally produced drug and therapeutic reference information can be so influential in promoting rational drug use. The publication gives an insight into some of the problems faced and lessons learned in the development of therapeutic information. An annotated list of national, regional and international essential drugs lists, formularies and standard treatment guidelines held in DAP's Documentation Centre is included. The publication concludes with a listing of primary health care newsletters, drug bulletins, resource organizations and services which provide information free of charge or at low cost to developing countries.

Selected Annotated Bibliography on Essential Drugs

1994, 284 pages
Ref.no. WHO/DAP/94.5

This is the third edition of the bibliography, which provides an entry point to the literature on a wide range of drug related issues. The bibliography directs the reader to key reports, articles and books of both current and historical relevance. Most of the material is from English language sources only, and has been selected for ease of access.