"The non-medical use of prescription drugs: policy direction issues"

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How can a right balance be achieved in order to guarantee availability and avoid the risk of diversion at the same time?
Realities

• Medical and scientific uses
• Abuse potential
• Need for control
• Limit impact on availability
Components

- Legislative and regulatory framework
- Regulatory and administrative controls
- Framework for availability and distribution of pharmaceutical drugs
- Medical or scientific need for pharmaceutical drugs
- Assessment of need
Legislative and regulatory framework

- Regulations and legislation
- Defines what drugs can be made available under what circumstances and with what requirements
  - Medical or scientific purposes
- Defines the powers and authorities for monitoring, investigation and control
- Defines the provisions for sanctions
Legislative and regulatory framework

• Comprehensive legislation and regulations
Regulatory and administrative controls

- Authorization process
  - Licensing and permits process
- Monitor distribution and use
- Powers to inspect and investigate
- Sanctions
  - Licensing authority
Regulatory and administrative controls

• A regulatory and administrative system that:
  – allows for monitoring the distribution and use of pharmaceutical drugs, to investigate and take regulatory action
    • Triplicate/electronic
  – gives officials the power and authority to take action in cases of diversion
  – works with law enforcement and health professional licensing authorities to investigate and take action in cases of diversion or inappropriate use of pharmaceutical drugs
Need

- Patient recognizes problem
- Differentiation
  - Self medication
  - Consult health practitioner
Need

• A well informed population
  – Benefits
  – Risks
  – Self medication
  – Professional consultation

Approach
- Prevention programming
- Marketing considerations
Assessment

• Practitioner is authorized by the medical licensing authority to practice

• Regulations allow him/her to prescribe under specified circumstances

• Practitioner makes a diagnosis based on his/her education and experience

• Practitioner writes a prescription
Assessment

• Health practitioners who are:
  – well educated in the use of these drugs
  – well versed in the inappropriate use of these drugs and the methods used by individuals to secure them for this purpose

• Universities
• Licensing authorities
• Professional association
• Regulatory authorities
Framework for availability and distribution

- **Availability**
  - Import/export
  - Manufacture
  - Distribution
  - Sale/use

- **Prescription is reviewed by the pharmacist**
  - Verification
  - Dispensed
  - Consultation
  - Referral
    - Regulatory
    - Law enforcement
    - Licensing
Framework for availability and distribution

- **Engage private sector**
  - Individual and associations
  - Information on physical security and procedures

- **Engage pharmacists**
  - Practitioners, licensing authorities, associations
    - Continuing educ.
    - Early warning
Thank you