

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

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Issue

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

