



**United
Nations**

Office on Drugs and Crime

*AVAILABILITY OF
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR
MEDICAL PURPOSES FOR
PAIN RELIEF AND
PALLIATIVE CARE*

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INTRODUCTION

- ❑ Opioids are used to treat moderate and severe chronic pain. They are also used in terminally ill patients with a limited life prognosis.
- ❑ 20,000 patients require treatment with controlled substances per year.
- ❑ 62% deficit of medicinal morphine for palliative care.
- ❑ In our country the supply and access to these drugs is restricted and insufficient.

<https://www.onu.org.mx/la-unodc-promueve-el-acceso-a-las-sustancias-controladas-para-fines-medicos/>
<https://www.foroconsultivo.org.mx/INCyTU/index.php/notas/80-19-opioides-analgesicos-n>

PRESCRIPTION OF OPIOIDS ANALGESICS

- ❑ Until 10 years ago, Mexico consumed approximately 4 mg of morphine per capita. Latin America uses around 12 mgs per capita.
- ❑ According to the Federal Commission for the Protection of Sanitary Risks, there is an increase in the number of prescriptions issued by doctors in the last 6 years.
- ❑ In 2016, 44,000 opioid drug prescriptions were used.
- ❑ Shortage of drugs for pain.

Covarrubias-Gómez, A., Templos-Esteban, L. A., Esquer-Guzmán, et al.(2019). Reflexiones sobre el uso de opioides para el tratamiento del dolor crónico no-oncológico en México. *Revista Mexicana de Anestesiología*, 42(4), 312-314.

PRESCRIPTION OF OPIOIDS ANALGESICS

- ❑ Doctors who are trained and authorized to prescribe controlled medications for pain management are insufficient.
- ❑ In the capital, 20% of the pharmacies that have permits supply controlled drugs
- ❑ 9 of 57 hospitals comply with the established standards for palliative care.
- ❑ Tramadol and buprenorphine are the most prescribed drugs.
- ❑ In the recent decade, morphine production increased just a 30 percent.

<https://www.onu.org.mx/la-unodc-promueve-el-acceso-a-las-sustancias-controladas-para-fines-medicos/>

https://www.incb.org/documents/Publications/AnnualReports/AR2018/Annual_Report/Annual_Report_2018_S.pdf

Knaul, F. M., Farmer, P. E., Krakauer, E. L., De Lima, L., Bhadelia, A., Kwete, X. J., ... & Connor, S. R. (2018). Alleviating the access abyss in palliative care and pain relief—an imperative of universal health coverage: the Lancet Commission report. *The Lancet*, 391(10128), 1391-1454.

CREATION OF THE THERAPEUTIC GROUP OF PALLIATIVE CARE

- Approval of the creation of the therapeutic group of palliative care, as well as the origin of the update of the National Compendium of Health Supplies.
- It includes opioids and other drugs such as Antidepressants, Neuroleptics and Benzodiazepines.
- The distribution is not sufficient in all states.

General Health Council Therapeutic Group of Palliative Care from the Drug Book of the National Compendium of Health Supplies. 5 October 2020.

CANNABINOIDS

- ❑ Cannabinoids are approved in some countries for analgesia, control of vomiting (induced by chemotherapy) and improvement of appetite.
- ❑ In theory, this year Mexico would already have regulations to allow the use of marijuana for medical purposes, since it prevents free access to health.
- ❑ Full regulation continues to be unwelcome by the majority of Mexicans, as revealed by the Belisario Domínguez Institute.

Suprema Corte de Justicia de la Nación. No. 115/2019, Ciudad de México, a 14 de agosto de 2019

CONCLUSIONS

- ❑ There is a lack of more equipment and infrastructure in the Palliative Care services.
- ❑ Health personnel, patients, and their families must be trained in the administration of opioid analgesics and cannabis at different levels of medical care.
- ❑ There are cultural and social barriers, an example is the really popular Opiophobia.
- ❑ Mechanisms are urgently required to establish a public policy that allows better access to this type of drug for analgesic purposes and to adequately control the effects generated by overdose.
- ❑ Lack of pharmaceutical presentations of opioids for pediatric populations.

<https://www.foroconsultivo.org.mx/INCyTU/documentos/expres/IE020-Opioides%20analg%c3%a9sicos.pdf>



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