

***AVAILABILITY OF INTERNATIONALLY
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR MEDICAL
AND SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES INCLUDING FOR
THE RELIEF OF PAIN AND PALLIATIVE CARE***

UMAR MUSA

***DIRECTOR OF NARCOTICS AND CONTROLLED
SUBSTANCES***

NIGERIA



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.....*Central Messages*

- Palliative care and pain relief are essential elements of Universal Health Coverage (UHC)
- Poor people all over the world live and die with little or no palliative care or pain relief from the lack of access to opioids



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....Our Journey to Freedom from Pain

- Nigeria is committed to the effective regulation of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances for medical and scientific purpose while preventing non-medical use and diversion
- Innovative and ongoing activities are chosen to illustrate ongoing support for:
 - Policy Development and Coordination
 - Process improvement
 - Stakeholder engagement



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- In 2012, only 0.1% of patients with HIV/AIDS and cancer that required narcotic medicines to manage moderate and severe pain in Nigeria could access these medicines (*reported by the Global Access to Pain Relief Initiative, GAPRI*).
- This informed a **joint assessment** by the FMoH, NAFDAC and WHO **to determine the barriers militating against access** to narcotics and other controlled medicines in 2013



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The Assessment Report identified the following barriers:

- Extant Laws and policies focused more on law enforcement with **little or no attention on access** for medical purposes
- **Limited or poor estimation** of annual requirements for licit use
- **Inadequate and irregular release of funds** for procurement
- **Centralized warehousing of Schedule I narcotics**
- **Unduly restrictive procedures** for controlled medicines
- **Poor knowledge of pain management** among physicians
- **Opioid phobia among clinicians and lack of health systems to meet needs**



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....Ensuring balance in national policies



- The Master Planan integrated and comprehensive approach to a wide range of drug related issues
- NDLEA is overall lead – Over 40 MDAs were involved in the development

The Plan has 4 Pillars

- NAFDAC and FMOH are lead agencies for **Pillar 3**
- **Access and Control of Narcotic drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors for medical and scientific purposes**

Policy and legislative Framework

- National Policy on Controlled Medicines
- Guidelines for Estimation of Psychotropic Substances and Precursors
- Guidelines for quantification of Narcotic drugs
- National Pain Treatment Guidelines



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National Policy For Controlled Medicines...NPCM

- The National Policy for Controlled Medicines and Its Implementation Strategies was completed in 2017
- The work of a Technical Expert Group (TEG) between November 2016 and May 2017 with stakeholder input
- Covering 7 thematic areas addressing issues of health, supply chain, funding, capacity building, quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation



NATIONAL POLICY FOR
CONTROLLED MEDICINES
AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION
STRATEGIES

Federal Ministry of Health, Nigeria

2017

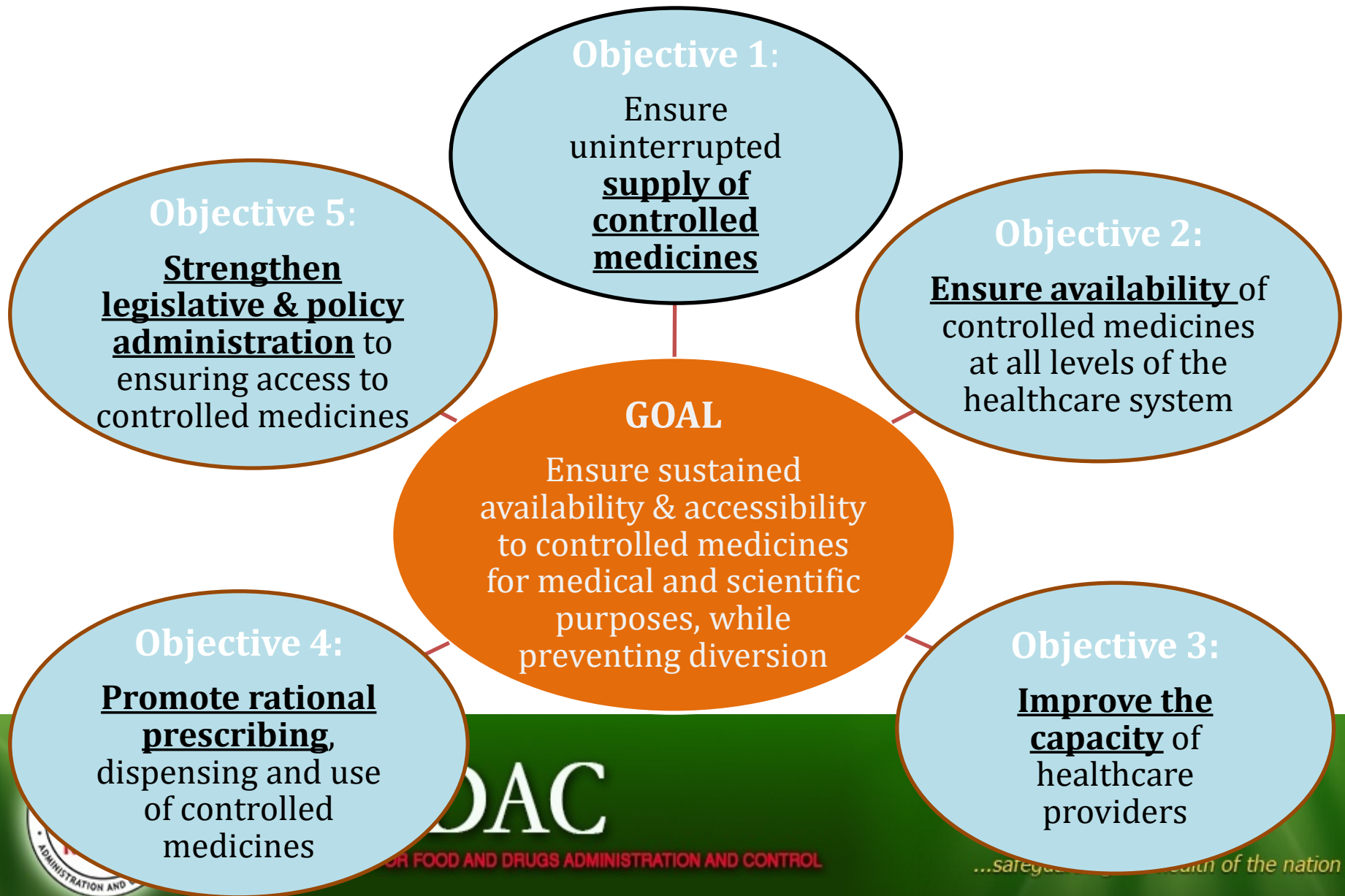


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National Policy For Controlled Medicines...



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....The First Steps

- ❑ Developing assessment guidelines for accurate quantifications of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors to national requirements for medical and scientific purposes
 - **Quantification of Narcotic Drugs**
 - **Estimation of Psychotropic Substances and Precursors**

- ❑ Only these countries reporting higher opioid consumption to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) while reporting low rates of non-medical use can maintain the delicate balance between access and control



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THESE GUIDELINES ARE PART OF THE STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE NATIONAL POLICY FOR CONTROLLED MEDICINES

- Developed in line with the 3 International Drug Control Treaties
- Goal is to standardize the quantification practices and assure evidence-based estimates of narcotic medicines for medical and scientific use reported to INCB
- Contains methodology and tools to scientifically quantify the narcotic medicines required in Nigeria
- Ensure that Nigeria reports realistic estimate of narcotic medicines to the INCB
- Implementation of Guidelines will improve access to narcotic medicines



National Guidelines for Quantification of Narcotic Medicines

Federal Ministry of Health
Nigeria

2017



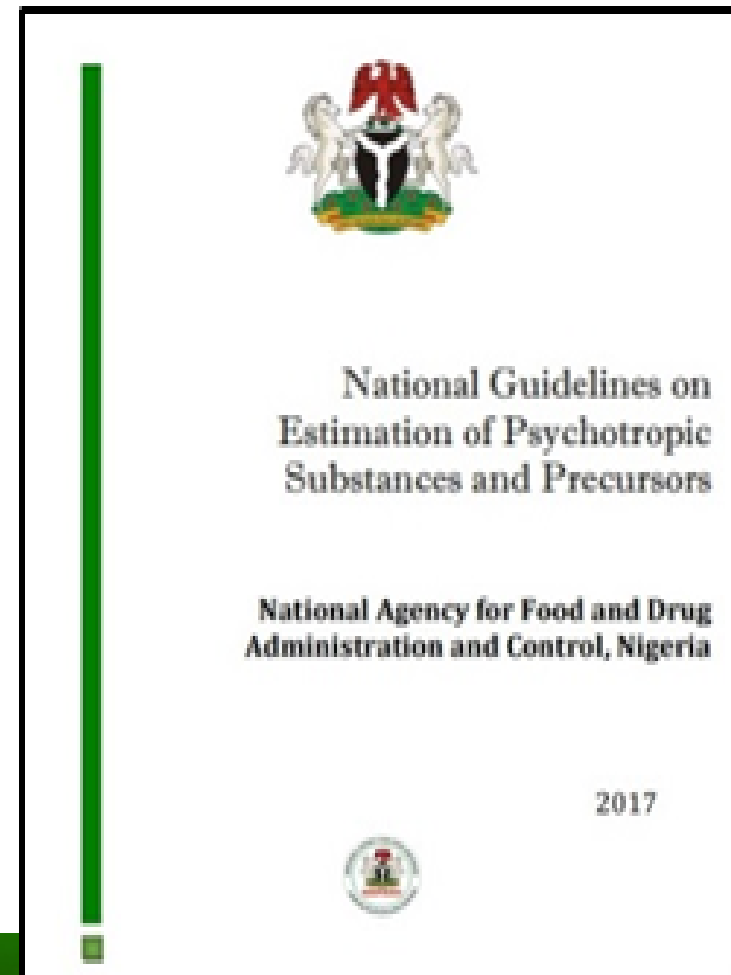
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- Twin documents for estimation of Psychotropic Substances and Precursors
- In line with the 3 International Drug Control Treaties
- Goal is to establish an [estimation practice](#) that will ensure adequate availability of psychotropic substances and precursors for licit use
- Practical steps and tools to scientifically estimate the psychotropic substances and precursors required
- Assist Nigeria to report a realistic estimate of psychotropic substances and precursors to International Narcotic Control Board (INCB)



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.....Consumption of opioid medicines in Nigeria

Estimation Data from the NGA V16 Survey...2017

S. No.	Drug substance	Estimated annual consumption (kg)	Estimated consumption with 10% mark up (kg)
1	Codeine + Pholcodeine	3834.2973	4217.7270
2	Dextromethorphan	726.7511	799.4262
3	Dihydrocodeine	2113.4494	2324.7943
4	Fentanyl Citrate Injection	0.0996	0.1096
5	Methadone Suspension	0.1680	0.1848
6	Morphine Injection	2.7809	3.0590
7	Morphine Syrup	104.2664	114.6930
8	Morphine Tablet	6.3868	7.0254
9	Pethidine	167.9705	184.7675
10	Tramadol	12074.9225	13282.4147

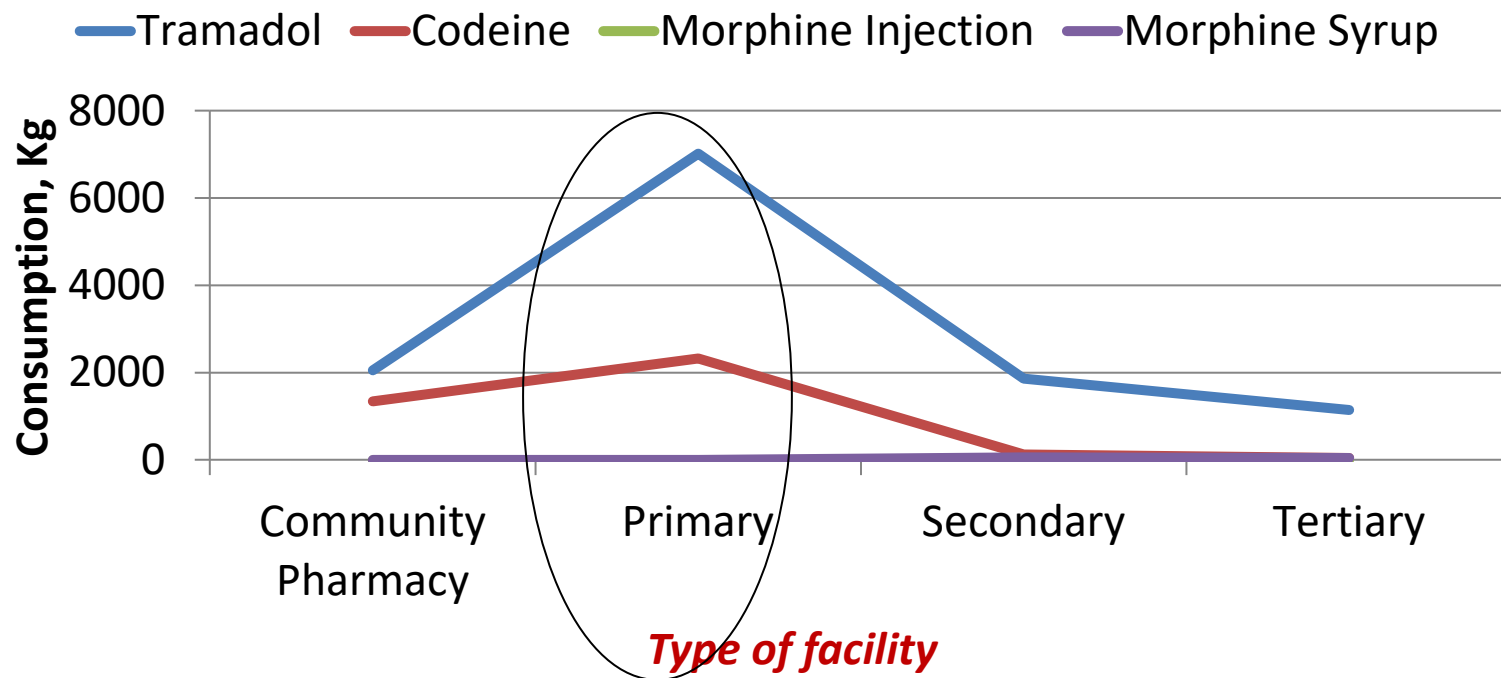


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---- Distribution of Opioid medicines by Facilities



Data from the NGA V16 Survey, 2017



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--- Level of care vs Access

- The opioid medicines described above are not authorised for use at the primary healthcare level
- Health systems must be strengthened to close the gap in the relief of pain and suffering
- Ensuring a balance between appropriate medical access to controlled medicines and the prevention of their diversion and non-medical use is crucial



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....The Appropriate Response

- Decentralized Warehousing of Narcotics Warehouses**
 - Currently, all Narcotics stored in Oshodi, Lagos
 - Ensure improved access by health facilities across the country

- Revised Curriculum of Medical, Pharmacy and Nursing Schools to Incorporate Rational Use of Controlled Medicines**
 - Change Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Healthcare providers

- Policy Dissemination**
 - Launch, Stakeholders' Zonal Dissemination Workshop, On-line FMOH website

- Local Manufacture of Narcotic Medicines**
 - Ensure access to opioid analgesics for moderate and severe pain



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Putting all these together....

- Controlled Medicines will be available, accessible and affordable by 2022
- Balanced thrust to ensure minimal diversion to illicit use
- All programmes and policies are aimed at creating a change behavior



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---Summing Up

- Issues in the regulatory control of narcotics and psychotropic substances are dynamic and the evolving challenges, in some cases are connected to organised crime
- In responding to these challenges we have continued to adopt measures to ensure patients have access to treatment, while criminals are punished under judicial process
- Also, attention is given to activities that will facilitate the availability of narcotics and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing diversion to illicit use



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--- Patients are counting on us....

- ❑ The challenge is opioid analgesics are not available in sufficient quantities and severe pain is often left untreated although medical professionals have the capacity to relieve most of such pain
- ❑ The international drug control treaties are interpreted to mean improved access to controlled medicines to enable countries meet their drug needs
- ❑ It simply expects members to ensure effective and efficient control so that controlled medicines are available to those who need the medicines



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"It is important to reaffirm the original spirit of the conventions, is focusing on health. The conventions are not about waging a 'war on drugs' but about protecting the 'health and welfare of mankind'."

Yury Fedotov

Executive Director, UNODC, 2013



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Thank you



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