



Technical

Discussions



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THE IMPACT OF DRUGS ON HEALTH COSTS: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS

PROPOSED GUIDE FOR THE WORKING GROUPS

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The following topics are suggested to facilitate discussion of the major areas addressed in Document CSP20/DT/1:

I. Pharmaceutical Supply System (production, procurement, distribution, selection, and utilization of drugs)

1. Promotion of domestic production and traditional medicines:
Cost/benefit considerations
2. Advantages and limitations of centralized bulk purchasing
3. Requirements for efficient distribution, inventory control, and utilization
4. Criteria for the selection of essential drugs
5. The need for providing prescribers with information on drug use and costs
6. Drug utilization studies: An evaluation of drug use
7. Recommendations

II. National Drug Policies (drug costs, legislation and control)

1. The impact of the international pharmaceutical industry on drug costs
2. Patents, taxes and price controls
3. The role of national formularies and comprehensive drug benefit plans in providing adequate coverage at reasonable cost
4. The basic elements of comprehensive drug legislation
5. The role of the national drug control agency in assuring the quality of pharmaceutical products and providing information on their use
6. Recommendations