

Framing the Issues: Using Existing Resources

Advocacy for Palliative Care in Africa ***Essential Pain Medication Accessibility***

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Opioid Availability Country Issues

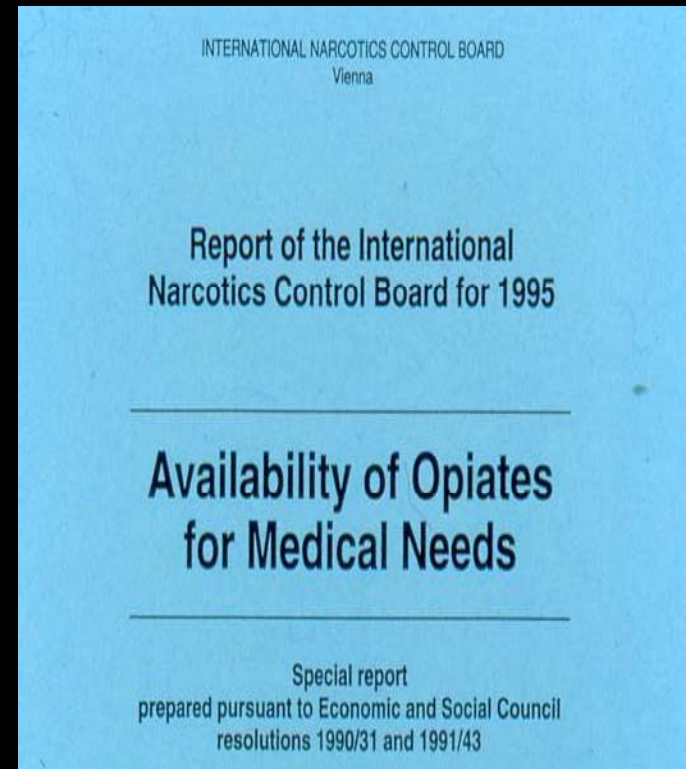
- Amount insufficient to reach patients in need
- Stock-outs
- Cost
- Restrictive regulations; quantity, etc
- Exaggerated fears of addiction
- Reluctance among prescribers, dispensers, patients

Framing key questions

- Is there a need to evaluate national opioid control policy?
- What is the quantity of morphine needed for palliative care in 2007?
- Could you make a diagram of the supply chain and use it to identify blocks?
- Do govt and palliative care agree whether there are barriers in the law/regulations?
- What should be done about misinformation about opioids and unwarranted fears of addiction?

INCB recommendation to WHO:

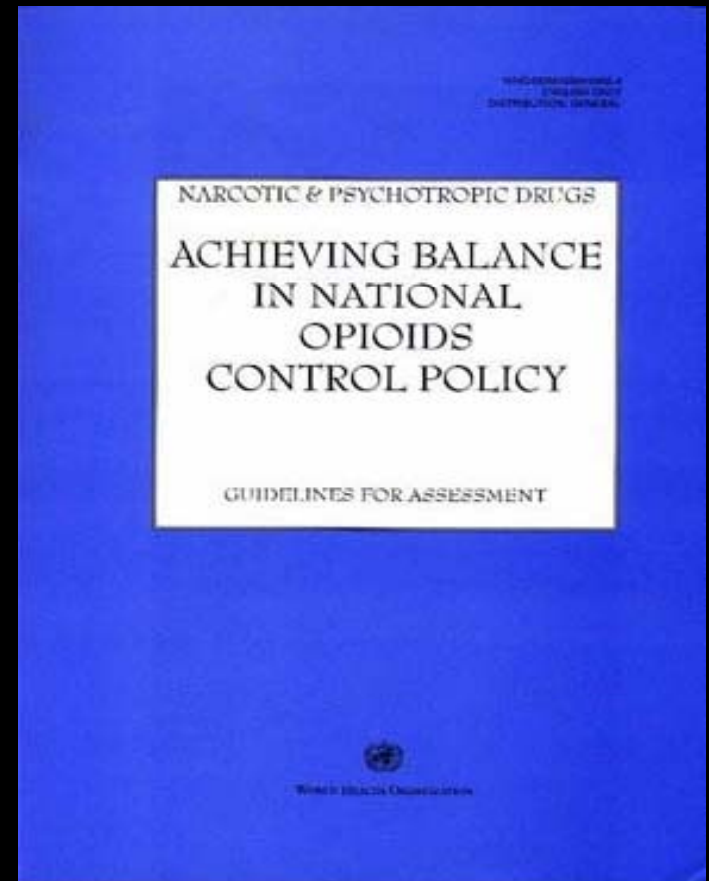
WHO should develop methods that can be used by governmental and non-governmental organizations to identify impediments to the appropriate medical availability of narcotic drugs;



WHO Guidelines for Achieving Balance in National Opioids Control Policy (2000)

- ✓ For governments and health professionals
- ✓ Explains need, rationale and imperative
- ✓ 16 criteria to identify regulatory barriers

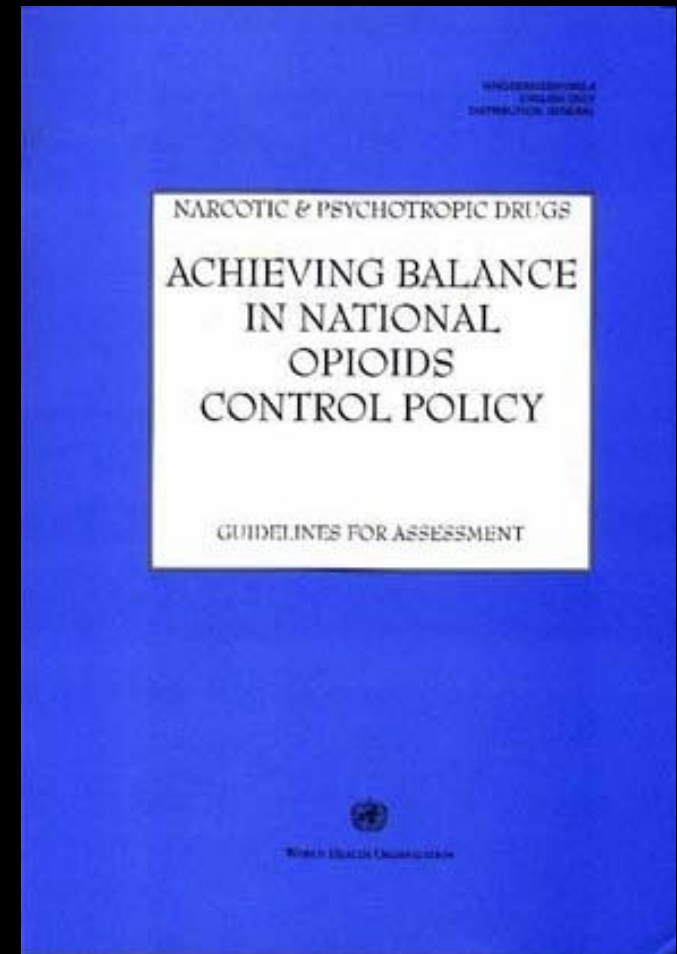
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Achieving Balanced Policy and Administration of Opioids

WHO, 2000

1. Evaluate national drug control policy
2. Estimate annual requirements; report consumption statistics
3. Administer effective distribution system to patients



Is your national policy balanced?

- Should there be a formal evaluation of national policy and how it is administered?
- If you are concerned about barriers in your national laws and regulations, or professionals' fears of police investigations, you are not alone

Policy change is like patient care

Policy

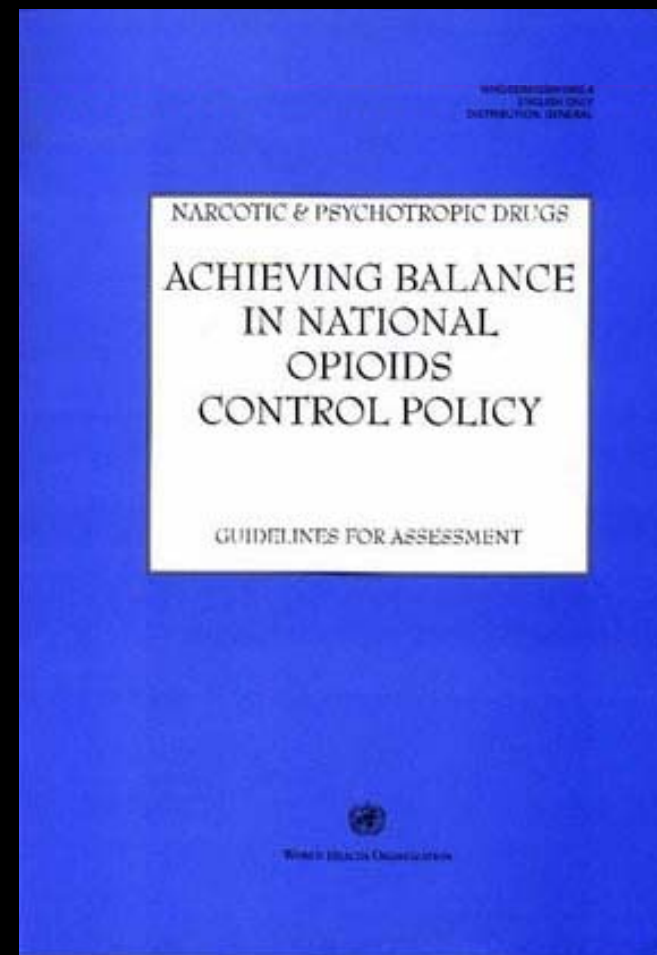
1. Evaluation
2. Identify issues
3. Action plan
4. Evaluate outcomes

Patient

1. Examination
2. Diagnosis
3. Treatment plan
4. Follow up visits

(1) Criteria for Evaluating Policy

- **Examine policies**
 - **Clear terminology: dependence / addiction**
 - **Avoid restricting patient-care decisions**
 - **Avoid unduly strict prescription requirements**
- **Opioids absolutely necessary**
- **Ensure availability**
- **Establish/promote National Cancer Control Program**

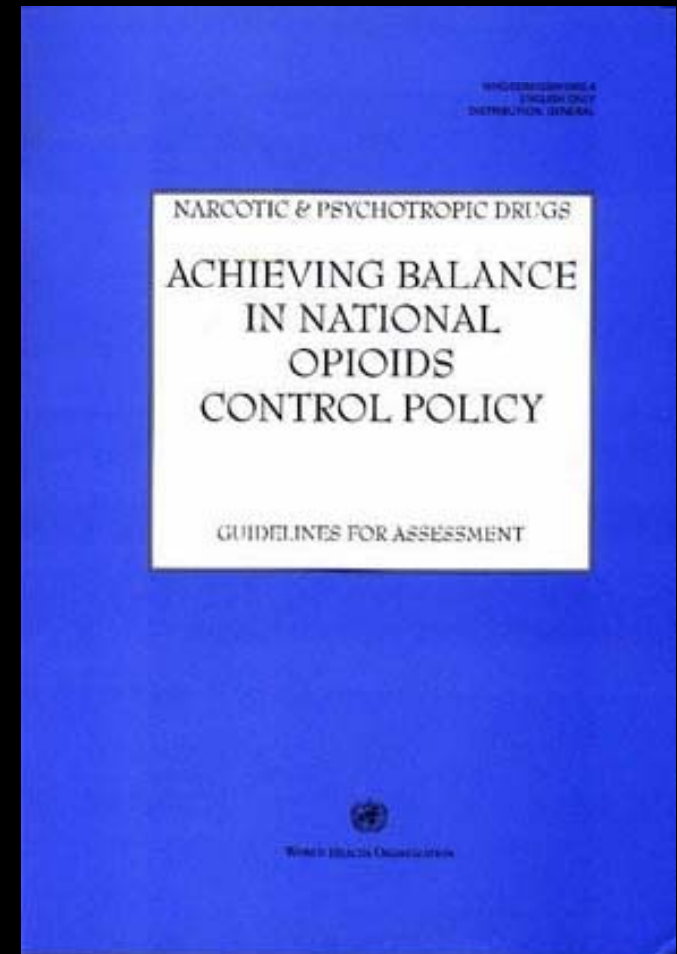


Steps to review and improve national opioids control policy

- Obtain MoH approval, establish a Committee
- Conduct a study of policies using WHO Guidelines (2000)
- Make policy change recommendations
- Implement recommendations
- Communicate changes to public, professionals

(2) Criteria for estimated requirements and consumption statistics

- **Develop a practical method to estimate the medical and scientific needs for opioids**
- **Submit to INCB annual estimates of opioids needed for the following year**
 - **Submit a supplementary estimate if necessary**
- **Submit statistical reports to the INCB**



Reporting of estimates and consumption to INCB?

Are estimates adequate? (need to know the actual need)

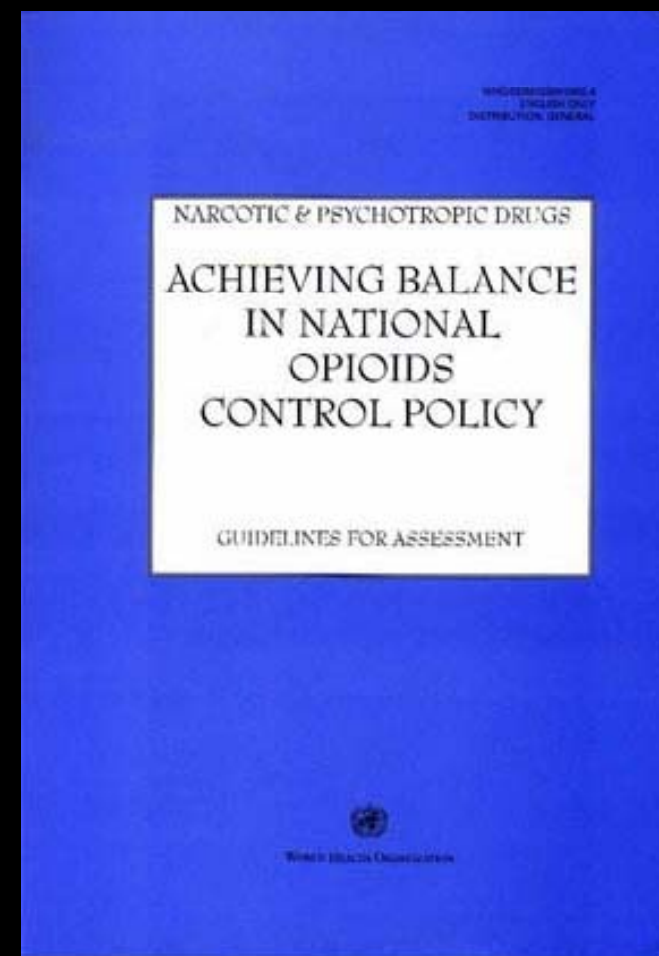
Are estimates and consumption reports submitted? (See the Monograph)

How could you improve your estimate system?

- Past use not a reliable indicator (See UN guidelines)
- Make an inventory of palliative care programs (data coll)
 - Licensing status
 - # of patients
 - # of prescribers
 - Amount consumed
 - Average dose
- Calculate the estimated requirement for next year for each program
- Submit to the Competent Authority so it can submit to INCB
- PPSG has started to develop inventory forms
- There are UN/INCB guidelines on estimation methods

(3) Criteria for distribution systems

- Authorities should permit and encourage distribution of opioid medications throughout the country, maximizing physical access while maintaining adequate controls
- Governments should permit and encourage the distribution and availability of opioid medications throughout the country



International Narcotics Control Board



Health Ministry/Drug Controllers



Importers/Manufacturers/Distributors



Hospitals/Pharmacies/Hospice/PC programs



Physicians/Nurses



PATIENTS



Medication

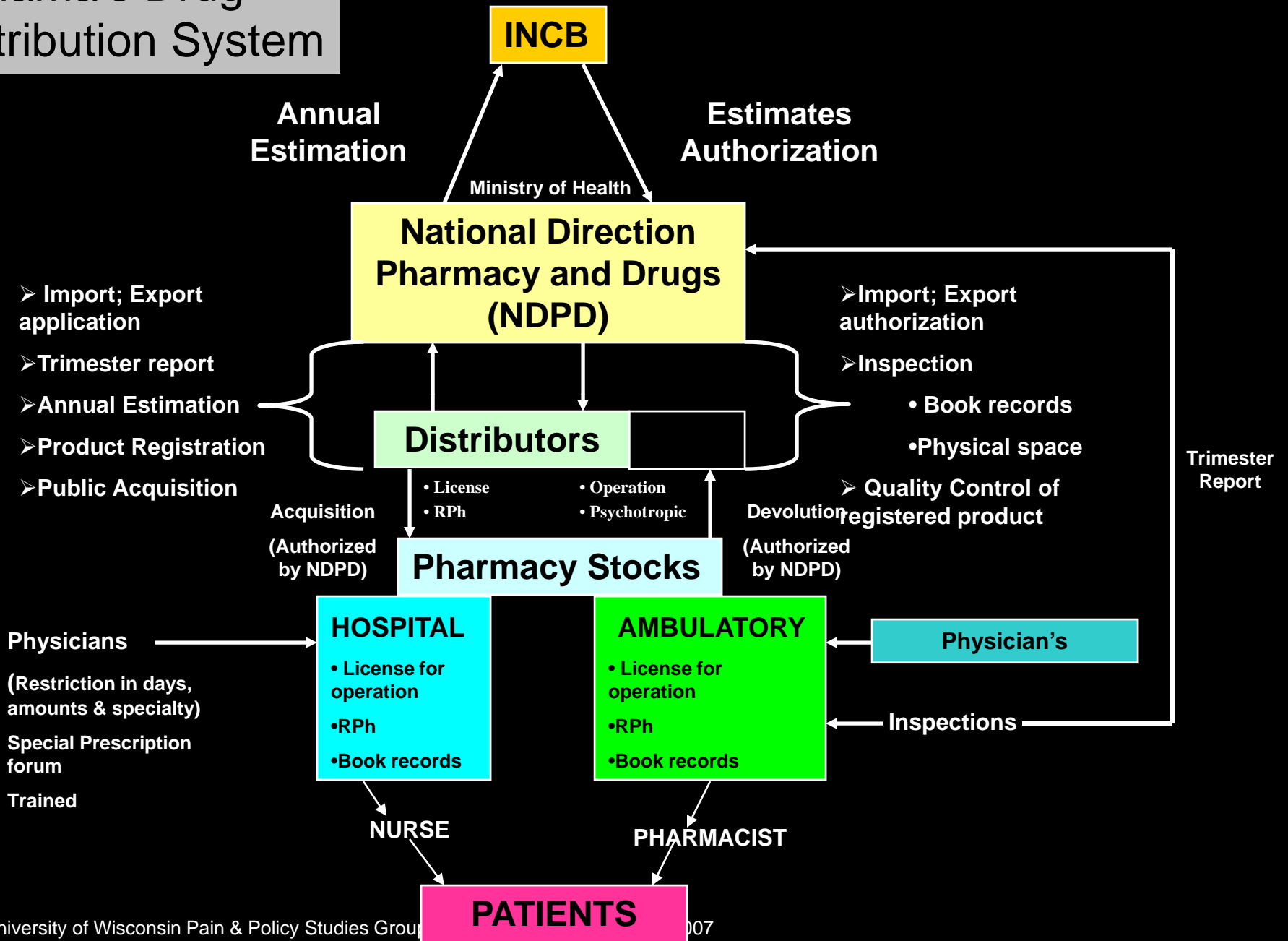


Information

Is your drug distribution system healthy?

- How do you tell?
 - Diagram it
 - Examine it
 - Diagnose it
 - Treat it
 - Monitor it
- What “treatments” are needed?
- How could the health of the system be monitored?

Panama's Drug Distribution System



Price

- Is the cost of medications a barrier in your country?
 - Import/Manufacture costs
 - Cost to the patient
- Have you compared prices with what other countries are paying?
- Is complete pricing information available in each country?

Progress to Reduce Barriers to Prescribing

<u>France:</u>	7 days	28 days
<u>Mexico:</u>	5 days	30 days
<u>Italy:</u>	8 days	1 month
<u>Germany:</u>	1 day	no limit
<u>Poland:</u>	100 mg	4.0 grams
<u>Peru:</u>	1 day	14 days
<u>Romania:</u>	3 day supply	30 day supply

Closing thoughts

- What could your Team recommend to address in practical ways the questions that are most relevant in your country and where there is consensus?
- What can your Team do to build the relationship between palliative care and the government?
- Which issues could be addressed regionally or internationally, so as to spread the cost and the benefit. Who can do this?

What can your team do?

1. Get ready

- Study your policy and needs
Learn how to change policy

2. Establish relations with government

- Examine needs, policies, barriers
Make a diagnosis, recommendations

3. Implement

4. Evaluate