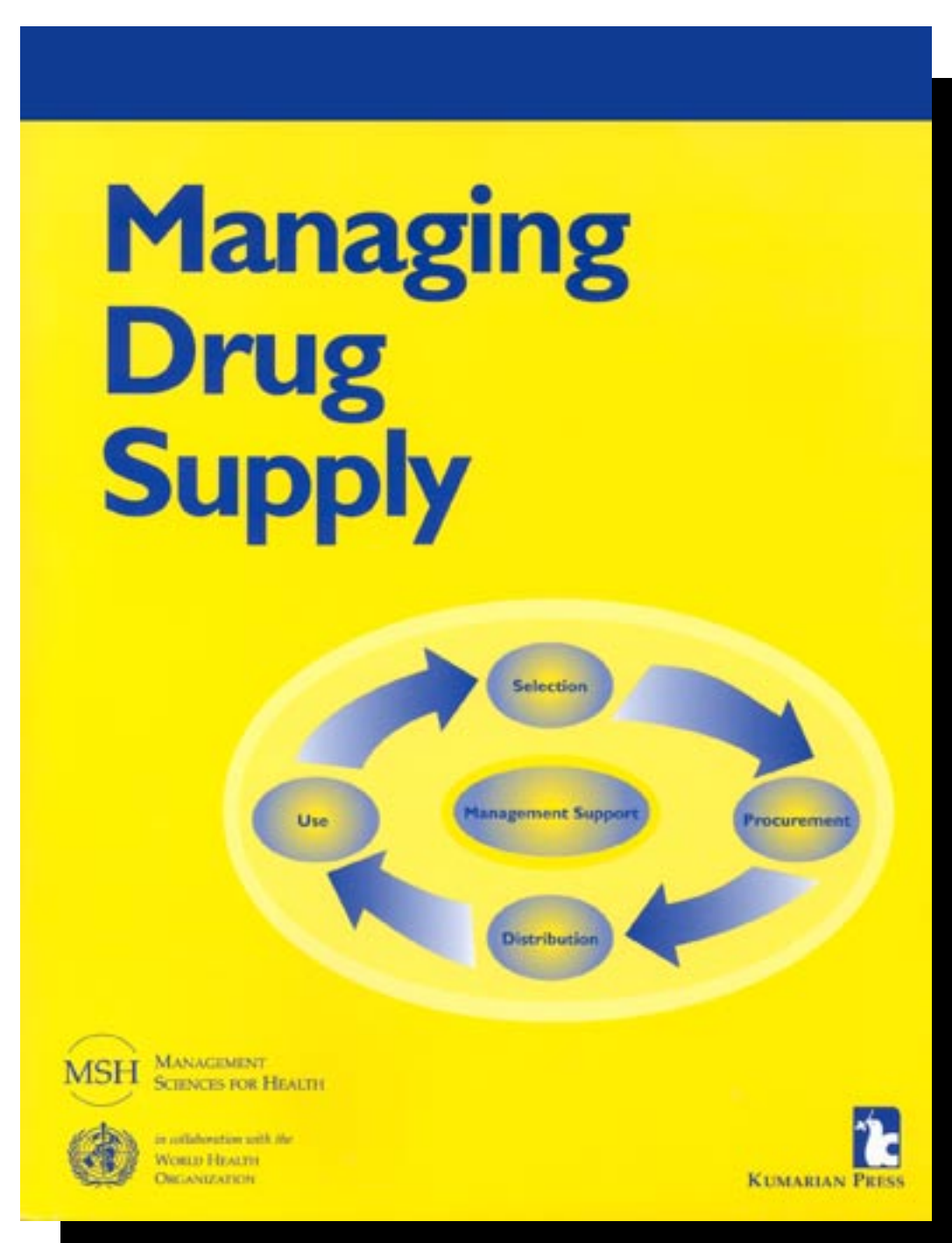


# Revising Managing Drug Supply

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## Background

*Managing Drug Supply: The Selection, Procurement, Distribution, and Use of Pharmaceuticals (MDS)* is the leading reference on the best practices in managing essential medicines, especially in developing countries. The manual is based on three fundamentals—

- Essential medicines are critical to the success of health programs.
- Improving the management of pharmaceutical supply is a high-leverage opportunity to improve health services.
- Knowledge and experience in effective pharmaceutical management are spreading rapidly worldwide; however, they remain disparate, unsynthesized, and frequently unavailable to decision makers.

The original *MDS* was published in 1982. It was revised in 1997, with more than 10,000 copies distributed in more than 60 countries. It was subsequently translated into Spanish and French.

Management Sciences for Health's Center for Pharmaceutical Management has conducted training courses based on *MDS* for 20 years. These courses have been presented in over 30 countries worldwide in English, Spanish, French, Russian, and Portuguese. Courses include—

- *Managing Drug Supply for Primary Health Care*
- *Drug and Therapeutics Committee (DTC) Training Course*
- *Improving Health Outcomes through Effective Pharmaceutical Management*
- *Pharmaceutical Management for Technical Assistance*

## Revision Process

Executive staff members from Management Sciences for Health and the World Health Organization, including those involved in creating previous editions of *MDS*, decided on issues to address during the revision process and developed a list of new chapters to be added.

Professionals with specific expertise were identified for each chapter. A technical writer is working with the experts to revise and update each chapter—some chapters will undergo minor revisions while about half require major revisions. The third edition will feature all new or updated country studies, a popular element that illustrates the concepts discussed in *MDS*. Each chapter will be reviewed by additional experts to assure accuracy and completeness. In all, more than 100 technical experts will contribute to the new edition of *MDS*.

## New and Updated

The third edition will reflect the dramatic changes in politics, advances in science and medicine, and developments in information technology that have profoundly affected access to essential medicines over the past decade.

## Selected New Topics

- Increased role of the private sector in pharmaceutical management
- Pharmacovigilance
- Antimicrobial resistance and the importance of adhering to drug treatment
- Creation of public-private partnerships to better develop, manage, and distribute pharmaceuticals
- Increased use of computers and the Internet
- New global financing initiatives, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and increased private funding from donors such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Use of innovative business strategies, such as franchising, to improve quality of and access to medicines
- Building capacity in human resources and infrastructure to accommodate HIV/AIDS programs



From the chapter *Managing for Rational Drug Use*

## What Is Reported in Interviews May be Very Different from What Is Done in Practice



From the chapter *Investigating Drug Use*

## New Chapters

### *Pharmaceutical Management for AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria*

This chapter explores the policy issues surrounding these three diseases and how they shape the global view of pharmaceutical management.

### *Globalization and Access to Medicines*

The globalization of intellectual property rights for pharmaceuticals is one of the most important and polarizing issues related to access to medicines, especially in developing countries.

### *Traditional and Complementary Medicines*

Although traditional medicine has been used for thousands of years, many countries are now working to address questions related to ensuring the safety, efficacy, and rational use of traditional medicine, including herbal medications.

### *Diagnostics and Laboratory Services*

With laboratory services required for diagnosis and treatment monitoring in certain diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, it is important to ensure appropriate management of the necessary nonpharmaceutical products, such as testing kits, equipment, and supplies.

### *Pharmacoeconomics and Pricing Policies*

Because of various economic and legal policies, the price-setting mechanisms for pharmaceuticals differ from those for other products, but governments can implement policy strategies to promote affordable and equitable pricing for medicines.

### *Pharmaceutical Benefits in Insurance Programs*

As health insurance becomes more common in developing countries, it is important to understand the concepts and range of public and private insurance schemes and how they can influence access to and use of essential medicines.

## New Country Studies

Public-Private Health Services Contracting Experience in Cambodia

Innovative Franchising and Accreditation Programs in Ghana and Tanzania

Implementing an Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting System in India

TB Drug Distribution Challenges in Mountainous Terrain

Transition from Primary Health Kits to a Direct Requisition System in Tanzania

Improving Pharmaceutical Management Using an Imprest System in a Clinic in Ghana

Contracting out Drug Distribution in South Africa to a Primary Distributor

Availability and Knowledge of HIV/AIDS-Related Treatment Guidelines in Rwanda

Using Innovative Contracting to Address Regional Challenges in Papua New Guinea

Chile's Efforts to Combat the Overuse of Antimicrobials

Using an Economic Strategy to Improve Prescribing Practices in Nepal

Medication Counseling Training for Dispensers of Antiretroviral Therapy in Kenya

The Use of Voluntary Licenses in sub-Saharan Africa to Produce Antiretroviral Medicines

Using TRIPS Flexibilities in Latin America and the Caribbean