



### Background

*Managing Drug Supply: The Selection, Procurement, Distribution, and Use of Pharmaceuticals (MDS)* is the leading reference on how to manage essential medicines, especially in developing countries. This manual is based on three fundamental beliefs:

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

The original *MDS* was first published in 1982 and last revised in 1997. More than 10,000 copies have been distributed in over 60 countries worldwide. It was subsequently translated into Spanish with selected chapters translated into French, and it is the basis for the *Managing Drug Supply Training Series* and multiple training courses held worldwide.

### 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, including 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 are receiving minor revisions, but approximately half require major revisions. The third edition will include all new or updated country studies, which is a popular feature that illustrates the concepts in *MDS*. Each chapter will be peer-reviewed by additional experts to assure accuracy and completeness. In all, more than 100 technical experts will have contributed to the newest edition of *MDS*.

### Revisions

The third edition of *MDS* will reflect the dramatic changes in politics, the advances in science and medicine, and the advent of information technology that have profoundly affected access to essential medicines over the past eight years.



The new edition of *MDS* will include new chapters on—

- *Pharmaceutical Management for AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria*
- *Globalization and Access to Medicines*
- *Traditional and Complementary Medicine*
- *Diagnostics and Laboratory Services*
- *Pharmacoeconomics and Pricing Policies*
- *Pharmaceutical Benefits in Insurance Programs*

Major new areas that have been added include—

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

The third edition of *Managing Drug Supply* will initially be available on CD-ROM in early 2006. It is being funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation through the Strategies for Enhancing Access to Medicines Program.