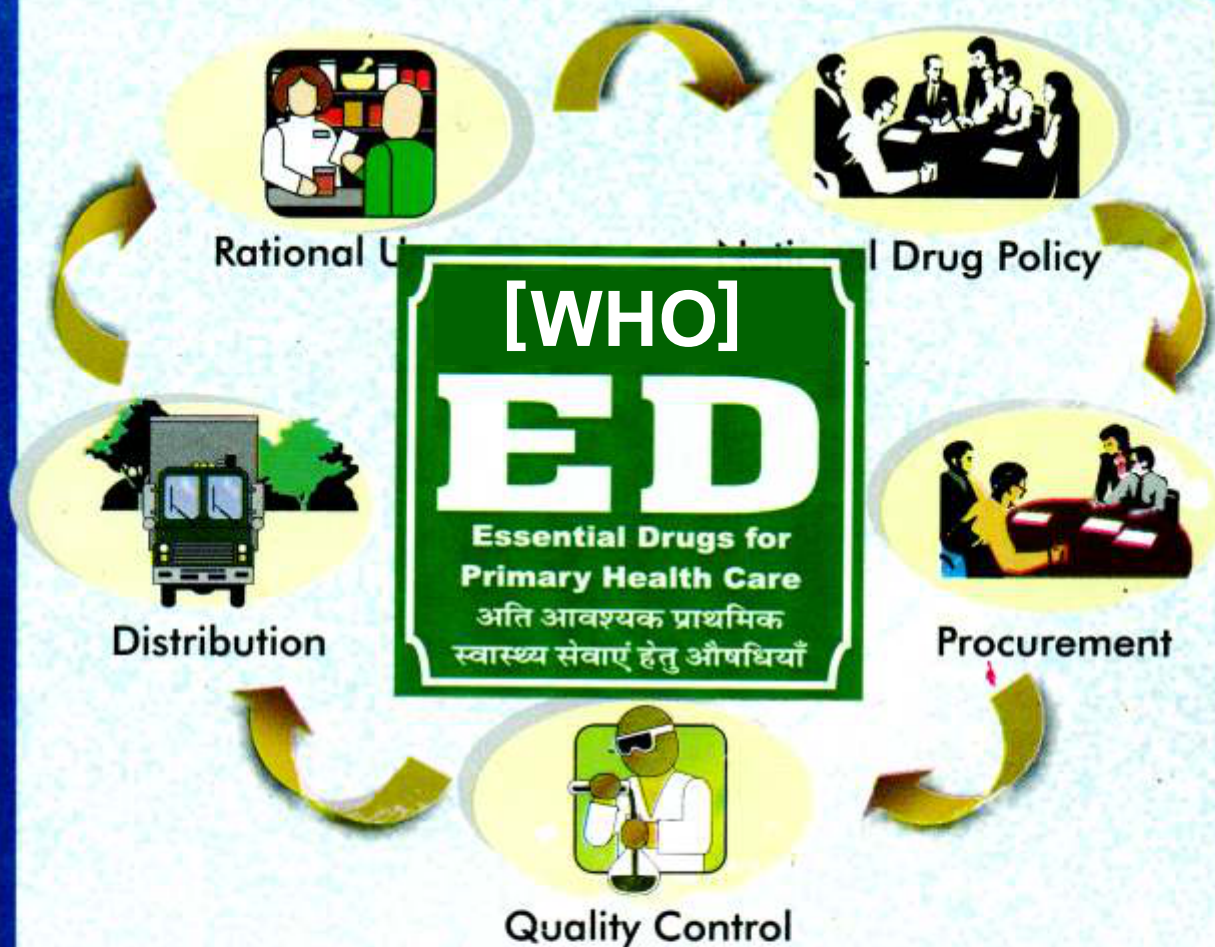


Essential Drugs for Primary Health Care



A MANUAL FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS



Essential Drugs for Primary Health Care

This monograph was prepared by Dr Kin Shein, Regional Adviser in Essential Drugs and Medicines Policy (EDM) in collaboration with Dr B.B. Gaitonde, former Senior Public Health Administrator, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia and Professor S.D. Seth, former Professor and Chairman of the Department of Pharmacology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. Thanks are expressed to the following officials for reviewing and contributing to the book : WHO headquarters: Dr G. Baghdadi, DAP, and Dr R. Gray, PAR; WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia: Dr P.R. Arbani, MAL, Dr S. Archaya, MCH, Dr T. Frieden, STB, Dr A. Louhenapessy, LEP and Dr J.P. Narain, HIS-STB. Dr Narain also contributed the chapter on Sexually Transmitted Infections.

First edition, 1988
Second edition, 1992
Third edition, 2000

ISBN 92 9022 185 2
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Printed in India

Published by the World Health Organization, Regional Office for South-East Asia, New Delhi in 2000, under the title, "**Essential Drugs for primary health care**" © World Health Organization 2000.

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Original WHO Price Ind. Rs. 370/= Indian Rural Medical Association Ind. Price Rs.

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- (9) Advise patient on risk of multi-partner sex and promote safer sex practices such as use of condoms or non-penetrative sexual practices such as caressing, massaging any part of the body, etc.
- (10) Provide sources of additional information on HIV/AIDS/STI including counseling services to the patient.

How to treat?

Drugs commonly used for treatment of STIs are:

- ✓ Acyclovir
- ✓ Benzathine Penicillin (by intra-muscular injection)
- ✓ Ciprofloxacin
- ✓ Doxycycline
- ✓ Erythromycin
- ✓ Metronidazole
- ✓ Nystatin (intra-vaginally)

Check national guidelines for latest regime and flow chart for drug(s) of choice and dosage.

What precautions should be taken?

- (1) Use gloves while undertaking a physical examination.
- (2) Ensure that other known sexual partners are also treated.
- (3) Always use sterilized equipment where warranted. Follow universal precautions.

How to prevent the spread of STIs?

- (1) Sex with a single uninfected partner.
- (2) Condoms must be used when having sex with multiple partners.
- (3) Treatment of STIs must be taken at the earliest. Condoms must be used during treatment.
- (4) All sexual partners of patient must also be treated.
- (5) Never share needles. Only sterilized syringes and needles should be used.
- (6) Screen blood for STIs before transfusion.