

organised by the CPA on Drug Supplies and Pharmaceutical Services, held in Delhi in March 1985, made exhaustive recommendations on the quality surveillance of pharmaceutical preparations⁽¹³⁾. Particular reference has been made to WHO Reports on the Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations⁽¹⁴⁾, which contain proposals for the setting up of model drug-testing laboratories. Most countries maintain liaison with WHO on the procurement of standard substances and reagents required for drug testing. The WHO Reports also give details of the WHO Certification Scheme on the Quality of Pharmaceutical Products Moving in International Commerce⁽¹⁵⁾. Monographs on the specifications of pharmaceutical preparations can be found in the International Pharmacopeia published by WHO⁽¹⁶⁾. Regional arrangements for drug control or drug-testing have not materialised so far.

9. Recommendations

9.1 National

- 9.1.1 In regard to recommendations for individual countries, it must be emphasised at the outset that the names of countries below are purely examples for action on a national level. Other developing countries with similar conditions and problems could be substituted.
- 9.1.2 Most developing countries in the Commonwealth should take action in providing pharmaceutical education and training, organise an efficient drug supply system with a positive role for local production and adequate quality surveillance including drug registration, inspection and testing laboratories.
- 9.1.3 Papua New Guinea and Uganda should establish a School of Pharmacy each of a graduate level.
- 9.1.4 A detailed study on the expansion of the existing production facilities should be undertaken in Papua New Guinea.
- 9.1.5 Fiji should develop their small-scale production plant to maximise the manufacture of simple pharmaceutical preparations.
- 9.1.6 Nigeria should consider the feasibility of expansion of the formulation industry to increase the production from the present 30 per cent of consumption to a target of 90 per cent. It should also consider the possibilities of setting up primary production of pharmaceutical substances and intermediates.
- 9.1.7 Ghana and Kenya should consider assessment of the present installed and utilised capacity of their respective pharmaceutical industry in order to make full use of the capacity.
- 9.1.8 Lesotho and Mauritius should consider expansion in output of pharmaceuticals through enhanced production programmes and modernisation of equipment and amenities, in their respective plants.

9.1.9 Malaysia should consider establishing and operating adequate drug quality surveillance systems within the present Government pharmaceutical department.

9.2 Regional

9.2.1 Countries should collaborate within each region on matters of drug quality surveillance, particularly on drug testing in their laboratories and setting up of regional reference laboratories. The function of these laboratories will not only be to exchange technical information on methods and procedures of analysis, but also to procure reference standards and reagents.

9.2.2 The Caribbean region should strengthen the CARICOM drug purchasing arrangement through larger input from the pharmaceutical industry. The total drug consumption of US\$80 millions is large enough to warrant an increase in production in the existing units and setting up new plants.

9.2.3 The African region plans should be prepared for to provide pharmaceutical education in Kenya and Zimbabwe for Botswana, Lesotho and Mauritius. Ghana and Nigeria should take candidates from Gambia and Sierra Leone. Similarly, the small countries in the Pacific region should obtain pharmaceutical education in Australia and New Zealand.

9.3 Commonwealth Secretariat

9.3.1 The Commonwealth Secretariat should assist in the preparation of projects on the programmes recommended on a national and regional basis in 9.1 and 9.2 above.

9.3.2 The Secretariat should undertake an evaluation of the results achieved on the reports and recommendations made by several UN and Commonwealth agencies on drug supply policies in the pharmaceutical sector in the Caribbean region. Based on the above evaluation, a detailed plan should be prepared in order to develop the pharmaceutical industry in the Caribbean countries with the defined target of meeting 90 per cent of the regional demand.

9.3.3 The Secretariat should request CPA to undertake a survey of pharmaceutical educational institutions in the Commonwealth with a view to strengthening their standards of teaching and facilities for practical work.

9.3.4 The Secretariat should undertake a study to assess the effects of prices of imported and locally manufactured drugs on the overall operation of drug supply.

9.3.5 The Secretariat should organise country and regional training workshops and seminars on the management of drug supply systems, prepare training manuals and disseminate information on this subject.

- 9.3.6 The Secretariat should collaborate with CPA in preparation of programmes for rational and effective utilisation of essential drugs through the preparation of national and regional formularies.

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