



Essential Medicines

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Essential Medicines

- Essential Medicines are defined as:
“those that satisfy the health care needs of the majority of the population, they should therefore be available at all times in adequate amounts and in the appropriate dosage forms and at a price the individual and community can afford”.
- Published in WHO Essential Drug List

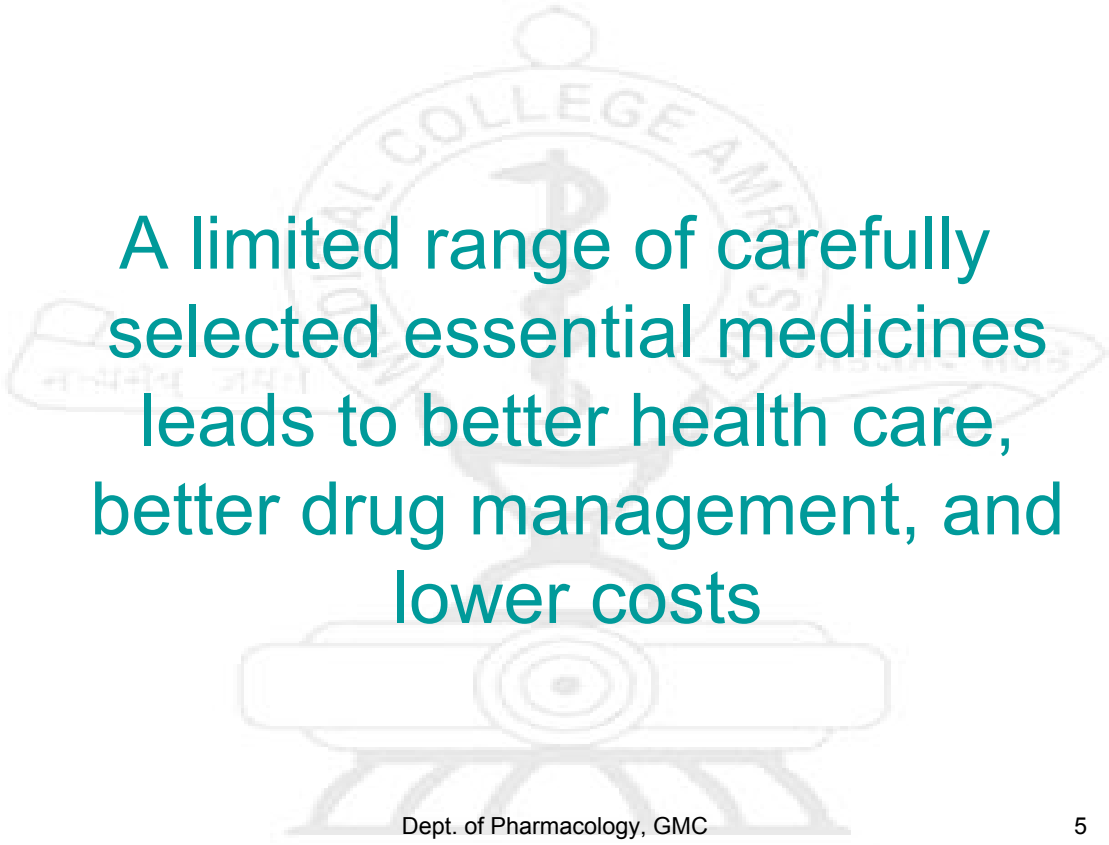
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Features

- Essential medicines are selected with due regard to disease prevalence, evidence on efficacy and safety, and comparative cost-effectiveness.
- The concept of essential medicines is forward-looking.

- It incorporates the need to :
 - regularly update medicines selections to reflect new therapeutic options and changing therapeutic needs;
 - ensure drug quality
 - continue development of better medicines, medicines for emerging diseases, and medicines to meet changing resistance patterns.



A limited range of carefully selected essential medicines leads to better health care, better drug management, and lower costs

Irrational use of Medicines

- It is assumed that more than half of all medicines are prescribed, dispensed or sold inappropriately, and that half of all patients fail to take them correctly.
- The overuse, underuse or misuse of medicines

Examples of Irrational Use

- use of too many medicines per patient ("poly-pharmacy");
- inappropriate use of antimicrobials for non-bacterial infections;
- over-use of injections when oral formulations would be more appropriate;
- failure to prescribe in accordance with clinical guidelines;
- inappropriate self-medication
- non-adherence to dosing regimes.

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- The knowledge of clinical pharmacology is applied to practice Rational Prescribing.
- Rational Prescribing draws its strength from the use of Standard Treatment Guidelines, use of essential drugs critical appraisal and choice of drugs based on standard criteria (P-Drug Concept)
- These are ultimately integrated in writing a prescription.

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Pharmacoepidemiology

- Study of the use and effects of drugs in large numbers of people.
- Observational studies on efficacy and safety of new drugs

Pharmacovigilance

- Pertains mainly to reporting of adverse effects of drugs already being marketed.
 - Voluntary reporting of adverse effects
 - Prescription event monitoring.

Report of Suspected Adverse Reaction to Medicines/Vaccines

(Statement about the collection and use of personal information overseas)

Patient initials (not full name)
or medical record number.

Date of Birth: / / or age:

Sex: M / F Weight: ____ kg

Description of adverse reaction/s:

Date of onset of reaction: / /

List all medicines/vaccines taken at the time of the reaction (please use trade names and asterisk the suspected medicines; include AUST R or AUST L number for non-prescription medicines)	Daily dosage (dose number for vaccines eg 1st DT19)	Date begun	Date stopped	Reason for use

Treatment of reaction:

Outcome: Recovered Date of recovery: / / Not yet recovered
Unknown Fatal Date of death: / /

Sequelae: Yes No Describe:

Severity: Life threatening Hospitalised Required a visit to doctor

Comments (eg. relevant history, allergies, previous exposure to this drug):

Reporting Doctor, Pharmacist, etc:

Name: Postcode -----

Address:

Signature _____ / /