

Theoretical Foundations of National Drug Policy

Bistra Angelovska^{1*}

^{1*} Faculty of Medical Sciences, University Goce Delcev, Stip, R. Macedonia
*Corresponding Author: e-mail: bistra_angelovska@yahoo.com

Abstract

With the World Health Assembly resolution (WHA 47.13 / 1994) four key programs were determined, which development lead to rational use of drugs and also improved access of the population to quality medicines. These programs include: National drug policy, Rational use of medicines, Concept of essential medicines, Support of scientific exchange between different countries and improvement of knowledge and qualifications of healthcare workers. Each country should develop its own drug policy in accordance with national political and economic conditions appropriate to their own limitations and opportunities. The made choice reflects its social values and national culture and also represents a base for legal and economic changes in pharmaceutical system of the country. National drug is a written document, based on social consensus and includes objectives, priorities and main strategies and approaches in order to achieve the set objectives. This document should include the private and also the state sector. The main objectives of the National Drug Policy are to ensure equitable availability and affordable prices of essential medicines, quality, safety and efficacy of all drugs and also rational use which includes promotion of therapeutically stable and cost-effective use of medicines by healthcare professionals and consumers. The more specific goals and objectives of a national policy will depend upon the country situation, the national health policy and political priorities set by the Government. It is of great importance that all national drug policy objectives are clearly formulated, with specific roles of the public and private sectors, various ministries and government bodies.

Keywords: Medicines, policy, pharmacy, rational use.
