

Research Proposal1. Major WHO programme area

Prophylactic, diagnostic and therapeutic substances (PDT)

2. Project title

Drug Utilization Research Studies with Special Reference to Primary Health Care

3. Country or area of execution

Inter-country

4. Project duration and estimated cost (global figure)

Duration: two years (1978/1979)

Cost estimate: \$ 42 000.

5. Background and justification (the problem)

There is a need to collect and correlate data in relation to minimum drug requirements in primary health care. The data are intended to provide information on drugs used at the primary health care level as well as on drug requirements under appropriate treatment conditions. The collection of relevant data in selected countries (e.g. Afghanistan, Democratic Yemen, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Pakistan, Sudan, Yemen) is likely to take about one year.

A Planning Group for Studies on Drug Utilization met in the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean from 23 to 25 March 1976. In his opening address to the meeting, Dr. A.H. Taba, Regional Director, mentioned that the aim of the Working Group was "... to plan studies aimed at providing precise information on the need for and use of drugs by individuals and groups of patients." The Planning Group recommended that drug utilization studies should be carried out to facilitate the planning of extension of health services, especially in the primary health care area. The attached report outlines certain alternative approaches.

So far drug utilization studies have been initiated in a few countries with WHO collaboration, including particularly Democratic Yemen and Egypt. A simple methodology has been used; it comprises the selection of a number of peripheral health units in the rural areas, establishment of the validity of the records maintained at the units, and collection of data about patients (sex, age, diagnosis - often symptomatic - and treatment given or prescribed). The information required is normally extracted from the records of the units on a monthly basis. The information thus collected will be carefully reviewed, analyzed and made available to other countries.

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The above "feasibility studies" have produced encouraging results to expand drug utilization studies in the other countries of the Region, with particular focus on those endeavouring to develop primary health care network.

6. Main purpose of the project

To provide information on the basis of which continuing improvement in drug supply and utilization can be achieved in the primary health care area.

7. Cost estimates*

SFCs - might be recruited locally at country level

	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>
Travel	\$ 8 000	10 000
grants	10 000	10 000
miscellaneous	<u>2 000</u>	<u>2 000</u>
	20 000	22 000
Grand Total		\$42 000

* In the Proposed Programme and Budget Estimates 1978/1979 there is already provision for \$ 13 000 and \$ 14 000 in 1978 and 1979 respectively, under the inter-country project "Research development on drug utilization" - ICP/DPM/005.