FORUM: World Health Assembly
QUESTION OF: Measures to reduce the misuse of prescription drugs for non-medical purposes
MAIN SUBMITTER: Ukraine
CO-SUBMITTERS: China, New Zealand, Ethiopia, Canada, Indonesia, Albania, Finland, Chile, Japan, Germany

THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY,

Concerned by the serious public health associated with the misuse of prescription drugs for non-medical purposes, including drug dependence, overdose, and life-threatening consequences,

Noting with concern that, according to the chair report, over 13.8 million people in the United States have misused prescription drugs, of whom more than 55.3% are reported to have developed addictions,

Taking note of the World Health Organization's 2025 guidance on the safe management of pharmaceutical waste from healthcare facilities, emphasizing the importance of safe and environmentally responsible disposal of unused medicines,

Recalling the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention jointly published by World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2018, which provides scientific evidence to support effective prevention policies and programmers,

Highlighting the physical and psychological effects of prescription drug misuse on affected individuals and communities,

Recognizing the importance of responsible prescribing practices, effective electronic prescription monitoring system, and public awareness in preventing misuse of drug while ensuring patients' access to essential medicines,

Acknowledging the efforts of the UNODC in promoting drug misuse prevention, public awareness, and access to treatment services,

Deeply conscious of the disruption of healthcare services in countries that are affected by war, especially Ukraine, which creates additional challenges to maintain wide access to prescription medicines and evidence-based treatment,

1. Encourages Member States to strengthen and implement electronic prescription monitoring systems and promote education for healthcare professionals, through ways such as but not limited to:
    a) Implementing secure monitoring systems to monitor prescribing patterns and identify potentially inappropriate prescriptions in ways such but not limited to:

i. Recording prescription information in secure database,
ii. Identifying unusual prescription patterns while protecting users' privacy,
iii. Reviewing potentially inappropriate prescribing practices through appropriate regulatory procedures while protecting patients' privacy and access to necessary medical treatment,

b) Providing regular training for healthcare professionals on responsible prescribing practices and prevention of drug misuse, in forms such as but not limited to:
i. Organizing workshops to teach safe prescribing guidelines,
ii. Educating healthcare professionals about signs of inappropriate prescribing practices and prescription drug misuse,

c) Encouraging international cooperation to provide technical and financial assistance to countries in limited healthcare resources, through measures such as but not limited to:
i Collaborating with the World Health Organization (WHO) to provide technical guidance and training for implementation of electronic prescription monitoring system,
ii. Providing financial support for installation of necessary digital infrastructure and equipment for essential healthcare facilities;

2. Calls upon Member States to . raise public awareness of the risks associated with the misuse of prescription drug to promote safe medication use through measures such as but not limited to:
a) Organizing public functions around and in hospitals to raise awareness of serious consequences from prescription drug misuse, including overdose, and drug dependence, through measures such as but not limited to:
i. Training workers to educate patients about the risk of prescription drug misuse and the importance of responsible medication use,
ii. Training healthcare workers to recognize patients who may be at risk of prescription drug misuse and provide appropriate support,

b) Launching awareness campaigns through social media platforms for wider audience through measures such as but not limited to:
i. Producing short educational videos or infographics explaining the risk of prescription drug misuse and the importance of following medical instructions,
ii. Collaborating with healthcare professionals and public health organizations to share medically accurate information and address common misunderstandings of prescription medicines,

c) Promoting in-person education on responsible prescription drug use among students and young adults through measures such as but not limited to:
i. Assemblies or speeches in high school, universities, and public work institutions,
ii. Adding lessons about medicine safety to school health education,
iii. Hanging up informing posters around campus,

d) Expanding access to education on responsible prescription drug use in rural and conflict-affected areas through measures such as but not limited to:

i. Establishing mobile health education teams to deliver in-person educational sessions on responsible prescription drug use in underserved communities,
ii. Collaborating with local community and trained volunteers to provide multilingual educational sessions for variety of needs;

3. Urges Member Nations to expand access to evidence-based treatment for individuals affected by prescription drug misuse, particularly in rural and war-affected areas, through measures such as but not limited to:
    a) Strengthening healthcare services to provide accessible treatment for individuals experiencing prescription drug dependence through ways such as but not limited to:
        i. Expanding access to medically supervised treatment programmers,
        ii. Providing professional psychological support and counselling services,
    b) Ensuring continuity of treatment for patients in war-affected areas through measures such as but not limited to:
        i. Establishing partnerships with local healthcare organizations to maintain essential treatment services,
        ii. Supporting mobile healthcare teams to provide treatment and ongoing medical support in areas with limited access to medical facilities;

4. Recommends that Member States establish secure and environmentally responsible prescription medicine take-back programmers to reduce the risk of unused medicines being misused through measures such as but not limited to:
    a) Cooperating with licensed pharmacies and healthcare facilities to establish regulated medicine collection services through measures such as but not limited to:
        i. Providing secure and supervised collection points for unused or expired prescription medicines,
        ii. Ensuring that collected medicines are transferred to authorized disposal services in accordance with national safety and environmental regulations,
    b) Expanding access to medicine take-back programmes in rural and conflict-affected communities through measures such as but not limited to:
        i. Organizing periodic community medicine collection programmes in cooperation with local health authorities where security conditions permit,
        ii. Providing technical and financial assistance to help local healthcare facilities establish and maintain safe medicine collection services;

5. Requests the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to support Member States in evaluating the effectiveness of programmers aimed at reducing prescription drug misuse through measures such as but not limited to:
    a) Developing standardized indicators to assess the effectiveness of prevention and treatment programmers through measures such as but not limited to:

i. Conducting voluntary and anonymous surveys to monitor changes in the presence of prescription drug misuse,
ii. Measuring improvements in access to evidence-based treatment services, particularly in rural and conflict-affected communities,

b) Promoting international cooperation to improve existing public health strategies based on evaluation findings through measures such as but not limited to:
i. Encouraging Member States to share overall evaluation results and successful practices while protecting patient's privacy,
ii. Providing technical guidance to help Member States improve programmes with limited effectiveness and adapt successful strategies to their national healthcare systems;

6. Encourages Member States to prioritize evidence-based treatment and rehabilitation over punishment approaches for individuals experiencing prescription drug dependence, where appropriate under national laws, through measures such as but not limited to:
   a) Providing access to evidence-based treatment and rehabilitation for individuals experiencing prescription drug dependence, rather than relying only on punishment, through measures such as but not limited to:
      i. Providing education and counselling to support recovery from prescription drug dependence,
      ii. Offering medically supervised treatment, including appropriate medication-assisted treatment when clinically indicated;
   b) Improving the ability of local hospitals and emergency services to respond to prescription drug overdoses through measures such as but not limited to:
      i. Ensuring access to appropriate emergency medicines and equipment,
      ii. Train healthcare workers and emergency responders to recognize and respond quickly to suspected overdoses,
   c) Offering counselling and support groups to help stressed families cope with a family member's addiction, such as but not limited to:
      i. Set up free or low-cost counselling in LEDCs,
      ii. Establishing support groups and relevant services for family members affected by prescription drug dependence;
   d) Encouraging Member States to improve access to rehabilitation services through measures such as but not limited to:
      i. Providing inpatient and outpatient treatment,
      ii. Medical support during withdrawal,
      iii. Continued support after rehabilitation;

7. Urges all Member States to shield vulnerable populations, particularly children and teenagers, from early exposure to drug misuse and trafficking by taking actions including, but not limited to:
   a) Passing strict national laws that specifically protect minors from prescription drug misuse, such as but not limited to:
      i. Making sure to state strict and clear national laws that prohibit minors from

using prescription drugs for non-medical use in any way,

ii. Prohibiting adults from illicitly distributing prescription medications to minors,

b) Establishing interactive online activities to younger audiences through ways such as:

i. Live question-and-answer sessions for medical experts to share information regarding drugs,

ii. Online knowledge quizzes about drug-misuse shared on social platform and present small prizes, provided by governments, for citizens who answered all correctly;

8. Urges all Member States to share information about information` about drug misuse and train healthcare workers to prevent prescription drug misuse and illegal prescription practices through measures such as but not limited to:

a) Establishing events for Member States of UN to share prescription drug situation and train healthcare workers, such as but not limited to:

i. Organizing international meetings every 3 months for Member States to share relevant information about the drugs misuse of prescription drug and effect prevention strategies,

ii. Creating an online platform where countries can share data and drug misuse statistics and ideas on solutions while protecting privacy,

b) Establishing systems to exchange information quickly when prescription drug misuse becomes an emergency, through ways including, but not limited to:

i. Makes a safe data-sharing plan that protects private health information, while letting trusted international worker's access databases quickly,

ii. Running joint practice emergency drills for border and health teams from different countries;

9. Calls upon Member States to collaborate with the UN to expand and fund healthcare and rehabilitation services for individuals struggling with prescription drug addiction through measures such as, but not limited to:

a) Establishing community-based rehabilitation centers that provide services such as but not limited to:

i. Providing medical supports to help patients safely manage withdrawal symptoms,

ii. Offering psychological and mental counselling to help patients understand,

b) Encouraging healthcare professionals to identify early signs of prescription drug addiction through measures such as but not limited to:

i. Checking patients' conditions before renewing prescriptions to identify possible signs of addiction, while making sure patients can still receive necessary treatment,

ii. Considering safer and evidence-based pain management options, when medically appropriate before prescribing medications that may cause dependence.