

## ON-LINE COURSE

[http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/on-line\\_course/welcome.htm](http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/on-line_course/welcome.htm)

### Increasing Patient Access to Pain Medicines around the World: A Framework to Improve National Policies that Govern Drug Distribution

This course is about the relationship between government policies that affect the medical availability of opioid analgesics and patients who experience moderate to severe pain. It was designed to provide a synthesis of the critical background material and current methods that have been developed to improve national policies governing medical availability of essential pain medicines for cancer and HIV/AIDS patients.

It includes examples of regulatory barriers and progress to improve opioid availability in many countries: China, Colombia, India, Italy, Mexico, Philippines, Romania, Serbia, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia and others. It is intended for an international audience of health care professionals, local and national policy makers, palliative care advocates, government drug regulatory personnel, national health policy advisors, and health policy scholars with an interest in pain management or palliative care.

The course is accessible at no cost and is self-paced so that it can be taken at any time that is convenient for the learner. It has 7 lessons each with required readings. Upon successful completion of the course the learner will receive a certificate.

The development of this course was supported by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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## *PAIN & POLICY STUDIES GROUP*

# Tools and Resources for Improving Opioid Availability

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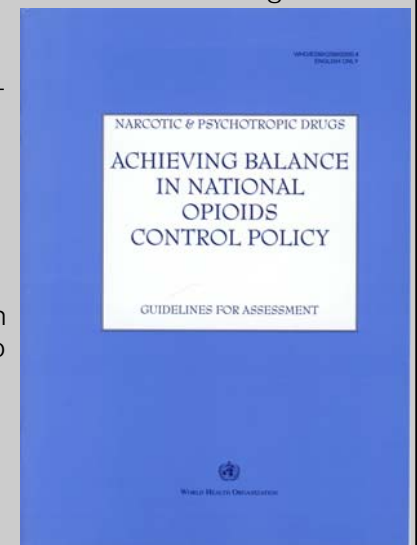
## ACHIEVING BALANCE IN NATIONAL OPIOIDS CONTROL POLICY

<http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/publicat/00whoabi/00whoabi.htm>

These WHO Guidelines provide a method for evaluating national drug control policy and administration, and encourage governments and health care professionals to cooperate in a study process using the guidelines.

The guidelines are derived from the international principle of Balance, which asserts that governments not only have an obligation to prevent drug abuse, but also to ensure the availability of opioids for medical purposes, and further that efforts to prevent drug abuse and diversion must not interfere with the adequate availability of opioid analgesics for pain relief.

The guidelines have been translated into 22 languages: Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, English, French, German, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Lithuanian, Mongolian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Swahili, Tagalog, Turkish, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese.



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## INTERNATIONAL PAIN POLICY FELLOWSHIP (IPPF)

<http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/internat/IPPF/index.htm>

The central aim of the IPPF is to develop national leaders from low- and middle-income countries to improve the availability of opioid analgesics in their countries.

The Fellowship program includes training, mentoring, and an in-country pain policy project. Fellows are selected through a competitive application process and agree to spend a portion of their professional time on the project for two years.

Applications are accepted from physicians, pharmacists, health care administrators, policymakers, or lawyers from a health care facility, policy center, or university from low- or middle-income countries.

The 2008 class included Fellows from the following 7 countries: Armenia, Georgia, Guatemala, Jamaica, Kenya, Moldova, and Nepal, as well as representatives from the governments of Georgia, Guatemala, Jamaica, Kenya and Nepal.

## ENSURING OPIOID AVAILABILITY: METHODS AND RESOURCES, JOURNAL ARTICLE

<http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/publicat/07jpsm/07jpsm.pdf>

The PPSG has developed methods and resources to assist governments and pain and palliative care groups to examine national policies and make regulatory changes. This article summarizes PPSG's new resources, including the IPPF, the on-line course, an improved website with policy resources and new approaches to the study of opioid consumption indicators.

The full citation for the article is: Joranson DE, Ryan KM. Ensuring opioid availability: Methods and resources. *Journal of Pain & Symptom Management*. 2007;33(5):527-532.

## COUNTRY PROFILES

<http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/internat/countryprofiles.htm>

These profiles provide standardized information about opioid availability and key policy-related indicators for every country in the world.

The screenshot shows the 'Namibia' country profile page. At the top, it features the 'Pain & Policy Studies Group' logo and a 'Back to index of countries' link. The main content is organized into several sections:

- NAMIBIA**: Opioid consumption trends.
- Competent National Authority under the International Drug Control Treaties**: Ministry of Health and Social Services, Private Bag 13198, Windhoek, Namibia. Phone: (264) 61-2039111, Fax: (264) 61-231784.
- Status of adherence to conventions, Receipt of statistics, and estimates**: A table showing adherence to the Single Convention 1961 and As Amended 1961/72, and consumption statistics and estimated requirements for 2005 and 2007.
- Useful Links and Resources**: WHO Guidelines "Achieving Balance in National Opioids Control Policy" available in 22 languages.

Adherence		Consumption statistics for 2005	Estimated requirements for 2007
Single Convention 1961	As Amended 1961/72		
*	*	*	*

Each Country Profile contains:

- Global, regional and national graphs that portray the trend in reported consumption of principal opioids as an indicator of opioid availability
- Key policy-related indicators, including whether the country is a Party to the international conventions on Narcotic Drugs which require governments to estimate their medical requirements for opioids and to report consumption statistics to the International Narcotics Control Board.
- Contact information for the Competent National Authority
- Useful Links to relevant national resources regarding pain, palliative care and opioid availability