

Assessment of International Model Laws for “Balance”

The Pain & Policy Studies Group recently completed a preliminary review of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) model drug control laws. The purpose was to determine whether the models provided governments with language they can use to carry out the obligation to ensure adequate availability of opioid analgesics for the relief of pain and suffering, specified in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 as amended, and as recommended by the International Narcotics Control Board in 1995. The results showed that current model laws lack the drug availability provisions.

An initial draft of the project was shared with representatives of the International Narcotics Control Board, the UNODC, and the World Health Organization. Based on initial positive feedback, the PPSG proceeded to develop preliminary recommendations based on the Single Convention. The PPSG's main recommendation is that updated model laws are needed, that consideration should be given as to how to achieve this objective; the PPSG offers its review as a starting point for discussion.

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This document can be viewed at http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/internat/model_law_eval.pdf.
Comments are welcome and may be directed to David Joranson (joranson@wisc.edu).