

Access to Essential Medicines

Essential Medicines are those that satisfy the priority needs of the population. They should, therefore, be available at all times, in adequate amounts and in the appropriate dosage forms.

Access to medicines depends on many factors, notably rational selection and use of medicines, adequate and sustainable financing, affordable prices, and reliable supply systems. When considering access to essential medicines, one must start first with ensuring that the medicines are available. This means the medicines must be manufactured and formulated in usable form and made available in the market. Pharmaceutical companies invest in research, development, formulation and subsequent sale of medicine. Medicine supply and distribution are therefore key functions in addressing access. Getting essential medicines to where they need requires an engine to move things forward; the engine is an adequately trained and skilled human resources.

Dissemination of Message on Essential Medicines Concept and Rational Use of Medicine is carried out through providing pamphlets, posters, newsletters and Standard Treatment Guidelines at all levels of Health Facilities. Awareness Promoting Campaign on Rational Use of Medicine is conducted for those participating in public and private sectors, NGOs, and also for local authorities at different levels of community.

**Promotion of Community Awareness on
Rational Use of Medicines in
Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawaddy**



Workshop on General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and Trade in Health Services, Trade Related Intellectual Property (TRIPS), Patents and Access to Medicines was conducted in Nay Pyi Taw at Royal Kumudra Hotel from 21-22 October 2008. A total of (30) participants from Ministry of Health, other related Ministries and NGOs attended.