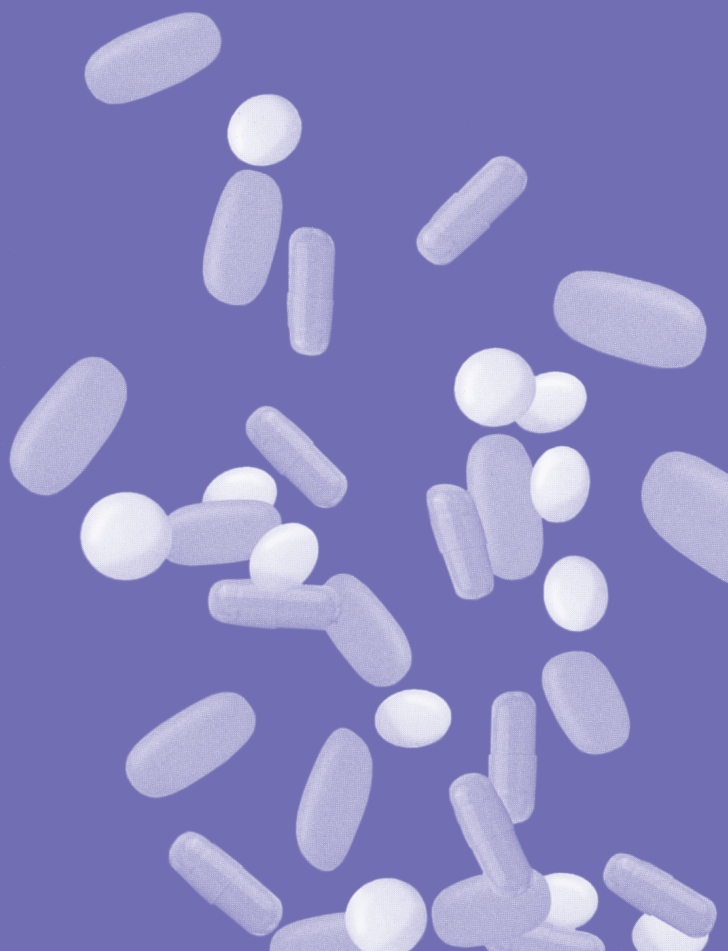


THE INTERAGENCY LIST  
OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES  
FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

2006



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INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION  
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POPULATION SERVICES INTERNATIONAL  
UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND  
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# Acknowledgements

*The following individuals and organizations are thanked for their contributions to the revision of the Interagency List of Essential Medicines for Reproductive Health.*

Kabir Ahmed (UNFPA), Gloria Bassets (Médecins Sans Frontières, Spain), Hedia Belhadj (UNFPA), Wolfgang Bichmann (KfW Development Bank, Germany), Eli Carter (Family Health International, USA), Luis Gabriel Cuervo-Amore (Consultant, UK), Catherine D'Arcangues (WHO/RHR), Sibongile Dlodlu (WHO/RHR), Nick Dodd (UNFPA), Wilma Doedens (UNFPA), Lindsay Edouard (UNFPA), Patrick Friel (UNFPA), Robin Gray (WHO/PSM), Fiona Godley (BMJ-Knowledge, UK), Ahmet Metin Gulmezoglu (WHO/RHR), Carolyn Hart (John Snow, Inc. USA), Suzanne Hill (The University of Newcastle, Australia), Hans V. Hogerzeil (WHO/PSM), Jane Hutchings (PATH, USA), Kathleen Hurst (WHO/PSM), Monir Islam (WHO/MPS), Shalini Jayasekar (WHO/PSM), Rita Kabra (WHO/MPS), Regina Kullier (Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research), Trevor Lessey (UNFPA), Sophie Logez (WHO/PSM), Nicolaus Lorenz (Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, Germany), Elizabeth Lule (World Bank), Mathews Mathai (WHO/MPS), Francis J. Ndowa (WHO/RHR), Clive Ondari (WHO/PSM), Hanne Bak Pedersen (UNICEF), Monique Renevier (WHO/PSM), Murtada Sesay (UNICEF), David Smith (UNFPA), Monique Supiot (UNICEF), Jagdish Upadhyay (UNFPA), Margaret Usher-Patel (WHO/RHR), Paul Van Look (WHO/RHR), Godfrey Walker (UNFPA).

This work was financially supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Mellon Foundation and the WHO Departments of Medicines Policy and Standards (PSM) and Reproductive Health and Research (RHR).



## Background

Reproductive health medicines are essential to the provision of quality reproductive health services. Rational selection is a vital component to ensure improved access to these medicines, followed by efficient procurement, logistic systems and rational use, which are equally important. Essential medicines for reproductive health include contraceptives, medicines for prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, and medicines to ensure healthy pregnancy and delivery.

In 2002, UNFPA and WHO jointly published the draft UNFPA/WHO Essential Drugs and Other Commodities for Reproductive Health Services List. This joint publication was the catalyst for the development of an interagency list of essential medicines for reproductive health. In the same year a study was started to compare the existing essential medicines lists of the various UN agencies, including (1) the 2002 draft UNFPA/WHO list, (2) the Interagency UNFPA/UNAIDS/WHO Reproductive Health Medicines and Commodities List and (3) the 13<sup>th</sup> WHO Model List of Essential Medicines of 2003. This study found a certain lack of consistency between various United Nations agencies on essential medicines for reproductive health, and identified 36 "discrepancy medicines" which figured on one list but not on another.

Since that time intensive discussions and consultations have taken place in order to realign the selection of essential medicines for reproductive health. The basic objective has been to ensure that all reproductive health medicines on the interagency list are also part of the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines. In other words, the interagency list will be a subset of the Model List.

## The Interagency List of Essential Medicines for Reproductive Health

This revised Interagency List of Essential Medicines for Reproductive Health presents the current international consensus on rational selection of essential reproductive health medicines. The list is intended to support decisions regarding the production, quality assurance, national procurement and reimbursement schemes of these medicines.

## Development process

The Interagency List of Essential Medicines for Reproductive Health has been developed

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