Securing the narcotic supply chain in Switzerland

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Healthcare Conference, Geneva, 22nd of June 2010
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Securing the narcotic supply chain in Switzerland

1. What is the problem?

2. Swiss solution

3. Optimization

4. Message
1. What is the problem?

2. Swiss solution

3. Optimization

4. Message

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Securing the narcotic supply chain in Switzerland
1. What is the problem?

- No good definition of "narcotics" or "psychotropic substances"
- Lists of substances like morphine, cocaine, cannabis, stimulants, synthetic drugs and tranquillizers
- Medical use (pain, cough, diarrhoea, stimulants, tranquillizers, nervous system)
- ... but not only! misuse
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1. What is the problem?

- Fast dependence
- Mostly psychological troubles
- Mostly social difficulties
- Frequently dose increasing
- Combination of drugs (alcohol, …)
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1. What is the problem?

Many people concerned!
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1. What is the problem?

1. Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961
2. Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971
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1. What is the problem?

Based on the three Conventions, National Laws and Regulations to control the use of these substances:
- for medical purposes OK
- for misuse KO
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1. What is the problem?

INCB: URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED AGAINST THE GROWING PROBLEM OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE
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1. What is the problem?

Summary point 1

Authorities need an efficient control system to fight against misuse of narcotic and psychotropic substances.
1. What is the problem?

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2. Swiss solution

Partners work together, one key to success

 Authorities

 GS1

 Associations

 Companies

 Wholesalers
Since 1991, the fourfold approach

- Prevention
- Therapy
- Harm reduction
- Control and repression
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2. Swiss solution

UN / INCB

Federal Authorities

Cantons Authorities

National Authorities
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2. Swiss solution

Traceability 1

importation

manufacturing

wholesalers

hospitals

pharmacists

doctors
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Traceability 1: how?

✓ each transaction is subject to notification to the control authorities

✓ for each notification
  - supplier name
  - recipient name
  - product name
  - date of delivery
  - quantity of product delivery
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Quantities of notifications by year

- Year 2000: 278,000
- Year 2002: 310,000
- Year 2004: 390,000
- Year 2006: 600,000
- Year 2008: 654,000
- Year 2009: 785,000
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2. Swiss solution

Traceability 2

- hospitals
- pharmacists
- doctors
- patients
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Traceability 2

✓ each narcotic delivery to patients is documented
  - patient name
  - narcotic name
  - quantity
  - dosing
  - delivery date

✓ each delivery could be checked by control authorities
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Traceability 1

Notifications

initially

... only in paper form!
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Traceability 1

Notifications currently... almost exclusively in electronic form
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Most importantly for the notification system

1. standardized product identification

2. standardized partners identification
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- **GTIN (Global Trade Item Number)**
  each drug and psychotropic substance is identified by a GTIN

- **GLN (Global Location Number)**
  each partner (industry, company, wholesaler, hospital, pharmacy, doctor) has a GLN
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Ideal solution for data processing

For each notification, only numbers

1. GLN of supplier
2. GLN of recipient
3. delivery date
4. GTIN of narcotic
5. quantity supplied

2010.06.22

50 (for example)
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2. Swiss solution

Results

1. At first, it was difficult to introduce the GLN for doctors

2. Now the system works perfectly well

- authorities have an effective system to control the use of drugs
- statistical data are available
- detection of abuses is possible
Results: detection of ...

- increase in prescribing of stimulants for children (methylphenidate)
- patients who obtain prescriptions from several doctors
- prescription of high doses
- false prescriptions
- ...

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2. Swiss solution
Abeko Narcotics

Welcome to Abeko - a data base application for the administration of narcotics deliveries. The application is aimed at companies that are involved in the legal commerce of narcotics to notify their narcotics deliveries in a simple and efficient way.

Are you a registered user already?
Click on the `Login` link on the lefthand side.

Do you not have access to the system yet?
Would you like to test the system? ([Deutsch] [Français] [Italiano] [English]) You can enter the Demo version by clicking on the menu on the lefthand side.

Would you like to have access to the application?
Please contact Swissmedic (Mail Swissmedic).

Swissmedic, Schweizerisches Heilmittelinstitut
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2. Swiss solution

Summary point 2

Authorities use a fully computerized system. Traceability of the use of narcotics is possible.

Decision to use the GTIN and GLN was most important to contribute to the successful implementation of this system.
1. What is the problem?
2. Swiss solution
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4. Message
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3. Optimization

Notification system so far works only for narcotics.

It must now be extended to control the use of psychotropic substances.

must be implemented
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3. Optimization

Publication of persons authorized by authorities to use narcotics for professional use

www.medreg.admin.ch
(Register of Professional Medical University)

is implemented
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3. Optimization
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3. Optimization

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Titre postgrade *1, Pays d'octroi</th>
<th>- Hématologie, 25.03.1994, Suisse</th>
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<td>- Médecine interne, 25.03.1994, Suisse</td>
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<td>- Pratique du laboratoire au cabinet médical, 14.03.2002</td>
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<td>Canton d'octroi Adresses</td>
<td>- Berne, Médecin, Autorisation octroyée, 01.02.1994</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waldhöheweg 6, 3013 Bern</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Téléphone: 031-3330301</td>
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<td><strong>Droit à l'acquisition de stupéfiants</strong></td>
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3. Optimization

Publication of companies authorized by authorities to use narcotics for professional use is being implemented.
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3. Optimization

Expand the notification system by inclusion of batch numbers of narcotics and their expiry dates to improve traceability should be implemented.
3. Optimization

Electronic prescription to reduce errors, improve the management of medical records and make counterfeit prescriptions difficult

Already possible in some hospitals, but almost not in medical practices
Summary point 3

The Swiss solution has already been optimized since its introduction, but there are still many valuable opportunities to do even better.

(notification of deliveries of psychotropic substances in particular, and expansion of recorded data to ensure traceability)
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4. Message

- Securing the supply chain is an element of the strategy to fight against narcotic abuse

- Swiss control system is efficient, even if it does not solve the abuse problem
4. Message

- To enable traceability, identification standards are essential.
- GS1 standards are not designed to allow monitoring of the use of narcotics, but their use has helped make it possible.
- After years of experience, it is possible to conclude that the choice of these standards by Swiss authorities has been an excellent decision.
This presentation aimed to show that rather than recreate the wheel, it is advantageous to use a smart existing system, such as that of GS1.

Could you help to spread this idea?
Thank you for your attention