ESSENTIAL MEDICINE CONCEPT

- ESSENTIAL MEDICINE LIST
- PRINCIPLES
- SELECTION CRITERIA
- NEED
- UPDATING
- NOMENCLATURE OF DRUGS
- ADVANTAGES OF EML
GLOBAL ACCEPTANCE OF EML

- WHO MODEL LIST OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES
- STARTED IN 1977, REVISED EVERY 2 YEARS
- > 350 DRUGS
- EVERY COUNTRY MUST HAVE ITS OWN POLICIES RELATED TO HEALTH.
ESSENTIAL MEDICINES ARE THOSE THAT SATISFY THE PRIORITY HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION;

THEY SHOULD THERE BE AVAILABLE IN ADEQUATE AMOUNTS & IN AN APPROPRIATE DOSAGE FORM.
LIST MUST BE UPDATED TIME TO TIME

DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH COUNTRY TO EVALUATE & ADOPT A LIST OF ESSENTIAL DRUGS ACCORDING TO ITS OWN POLICY IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH.
ESSENTIAL MEDICINE CONCEPT

- **PRINCIPLE** OF THE CONCEPT IS THAT A LIMITED NUMBER OF DRUGS LEAD TO -
- A BETTER SUPPLY OF DRUGS
- MORE RATIONAL PRESCRIBING
- PROCUREMENT OF GOOD QUALITY AT LOWER COSTS
- EASIER STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION AND DISPENSING
- FOCUSED TRAINING AND DRUG INFORMATION
- MORE EXPERIENCE WITH FEWER DRUGS, BETTER RECOGNITION OF ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS (ADR) .
DRUG POLICY - RATIONAL DRUG USE & ESSENTIAL MEDICINE LIST, BY WHO, IN INDIA, BANGLADESH, IRAN, NORWAY.

EML IS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WHERE A LARGE % OF POPULATION IS BELOW POVERTY LINE & THEREFORE IS EXPOSED TO A GREATER RISK OF MORBIDITY & MORTALITY DUE TO INFECTIONS & INFESTATIONS.

ALSO CAN’T AFFORD EXPENSIVE NEW DRUGS.

DON’T HAVE ACCESS TO LARGE TERTIARY CARE HOSPITALS.
SELECTION CRITERIA

- Based on morbidity pattern - incidence & prevalence of diseases in the country.
- Adequate data on safety & efficacy about the drug.
- Availability in a dosage form of suitable strength, for which adequate quality in terms of - bioavailability can be assured.
- Stability under climate conditions.
SELECTION CRITERIA

- PHARMACEUTICAL FORM - ON THE BASIS OF COST, P/K, BIOAVAILABILITY, STABILITY, LOCAL PREFERENCE.
- COMPARE 2 DRUGS IN RESPECT OF -
- EFFICACY, SAFETY, QUALITY, AVAILABILITY & COST
- PREFERABLY AS A SINGLE ACTIVE INGREDIENT
- FIXED DOSE COMBINATION - ONLY WHEN PROVEN ADVANTAGE OVER SINGLE.
WHY IS EML NEEDED

- THERAPEUTIC JUNGLE > 60000 DRUGS
- IRRATIONAL FIXED DRUG DOSE COMBINATIONS
- ME TOO DRUGS (Similar to drugs already in the market)
- SUB-STANDARD & SPURIOUS DRUGS
- COSTS OF DRUGS
- IRRATIONAL PRESCRIPTION OF TONICS, MULTI-VITAMINS
- IATROGENIC DISEASES
- LIMITED HEALTH BUDGET
WHY IS EML NEEDED

- SOURCE OF INFORMATION
- PHARMA INDUSTRY - *PRESCRIBE MY DRUGS*
- GOVT & INSURANCE BODIES - WANT TO SPEND LESS, QUALITY AFFECTED
- MEANS OF RESTRICTING PHARMA INDUSTRY - FORMULARY, A LIST OF FORMULATIONS OF MEDICINES WITH VARYING AMOUNTS OF ADDED INFORMATION ABOUT NATIONALLY LICENSED MEDICINES.
EML MUST BE FLEXIBLE TO -
ACCOMMODATE NEW DRUGS
NEW INFORMATION ON ESTABLISHED DRUGS
CHANGES IN THE STATUS OF INTERNATIONALLY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.
NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINE LIST

NAMES OF DRUGS ARE FOLLOWED BY THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO INDICATE THEIR NEED AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF MEDICAL CARE-

P - PRIMARY HEALTH CARE
S - SECONDARY HEALTH CARE
T - TERTIARY HEALTH CARE
U- UNIVERSAL
W- WHO
I - NATIONAL ESSENTIAL DRUGS LIST (INDIA)

DRUGS INCLUDED ARE SAFE, EFFECTIVE, AFFORDABLE, APPROVED BY DRUG CONTROLLER GENERAL OF INDIA (DCGI)
NOMENCLATURE OF DRUGS

- GENERIC (NON-PROPRIETARY)
- BRANDED (PROPRIETARY)
- GENERIC - UNIFORM, USED EVERYWHERE
- CONFUSION REDUCED
- GIVES INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLASS OF THE DRUG
- COST IS LESS
- GENERIC NAMES SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER POSSIBLE
- BRANDED - EASY TO RECALL, QUALITY ENSURED, BUT EXPENSIVE.
ADVANTAGES OF EML

- Ensures availability of most required drugs at all times, in sufficient amounts and in appropriate dosage forms.
- Keeps a check on the prices of generically listed drugs.
- Substantial savings (50-60%) including foreign exchange is possible without compromising the quality of health-care.
- Curtailing the no. of drugs improves drug dispensing & patient compliance.
- Procurement & distribution can be uniform & systemic.