

CHAPTER 2

Managing drugs

Learning objectives

After studying this chapter and doing Exercises 42–48 on pages 239–246, the health worker should be able to:

- act responsibly with regard to drugs and set a good example to other staff members
- prevent drug wastage
- adapt a standard drug list for a health unit
- use a decision procedure to make a choice between drugs
- on the basis of current use of drugs, estimate drug quantities required
- order and stock drugs
- issue drugs
- establish a method to prevent life-saving drugs from being out of stock
- discover and investigate discrepancies in drug usage
- prepackage outpatient drugs.

The use of drugs is only one aspect of a health service but it is one of the most important.

Drugs are important

The management of the drug supply in the health unit is one of the most responsible functions of the health worker.

Drugs are powerful

Drugs must be used with skill, knowledge and accuracy, otherwise they are dangerous.