

The System to Ensure the Availability of Medicines in Ukraine

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Abstract. This article aims at determining availability of medicines and finding the factors that affect it. Availability of medicines is considered as a system having an internal structure, and the hierarchy of individual elements. The systematic approach is in the basis for the study of marketing availability of medicines. According to the WHO the concept of "drug availability" is considered in two aspects: physical availability and economic availability. We have proposed to extend this structure and introduced such new variables as marketing, technological and intellectual availability. Analysis of the marketing components requires some research and gathering relevant information of the drug availability model that can be used in the forecast. However, to obtain a reliable forecast the factors that affect the forecast object must be taken into account, and therefore, only the necessary marketing information should be used. The policy and practice of pharmaceutical products patenting vary considerably in different countries. In Ukraine legal protection is provided for products related to medicines, decisions of application of medical products concerning a new indication, as well as methods of treatment, including the use of medicines. However, there is a high probability of forming pricing monopoly by a producer of a patented medicine. The patent monopoly can hinder further innovation, such as development of the combined fixed-dose or other dosage forms of the medicine. The rational use and availability of medicines are the most important factors that determine the effectiveness of the healthcare system. The legal regulation in the field of drug provision both at the international and the national levels has a significant impact on availability of medicines. In general, the problem of availability of medicines should be based on effective elaboration of relevant regulations.