


### The Pillbox:

Where does pharmaceutical management fit into the health system?



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September 2008

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### Learning objectives

At the conclusion of this session, the *active* participant will be able to:

- **Describe** the component parts of a health system,
- **Depict** how pharmaceutical management fits in the health system, and
- **Define** pharmaceutical management systems as a way to help health systems achieve desired health outcomes.

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### Health systems

- What is a health system?
  - How can you depict this visually?
  - *Hint*
    - The WHO defines **health systems** as “all organizations, institutions and resources that are devoted to producing health actions.”



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### Pharmaceutical management

- What is pharmaceutical management?
  - How does this fit into your health systems figure?
  - *Hint*
    - **Pharmaceutical management** is the set of practices aimed at ensuring the **timely availability** and **appropriate use of safe, effective, quality medicines** and related products and services in any health-care setting.



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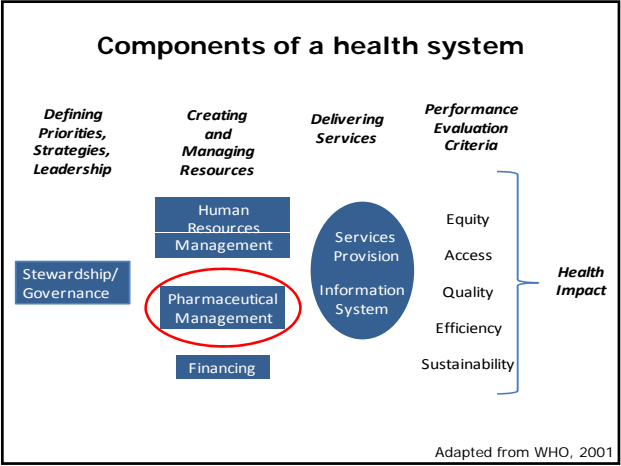
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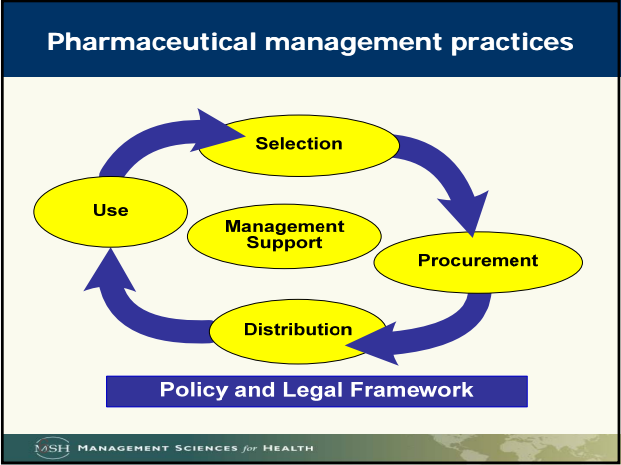
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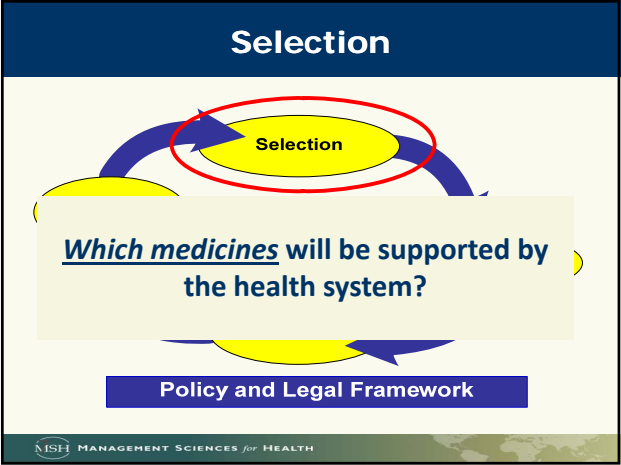
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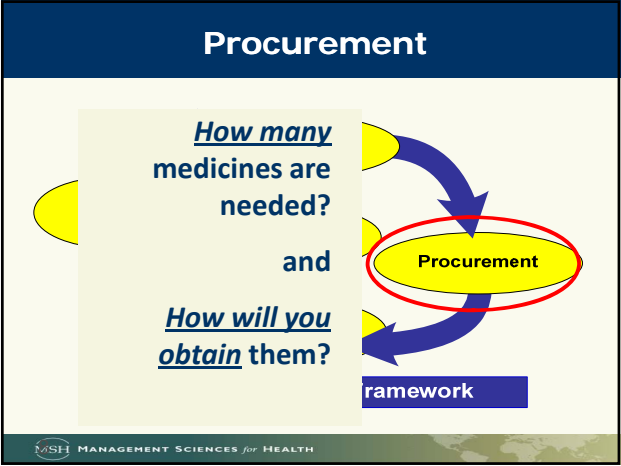
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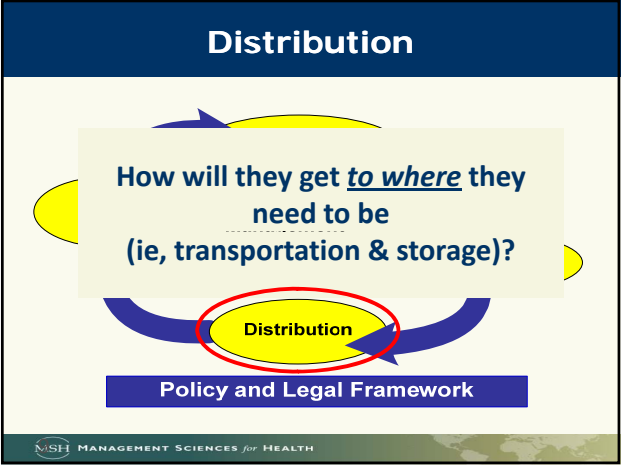
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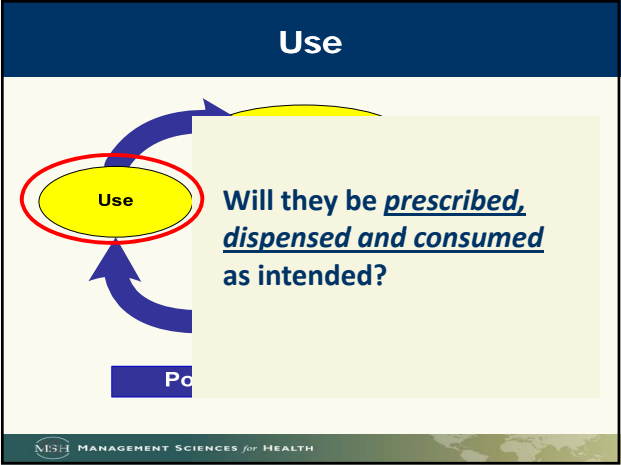
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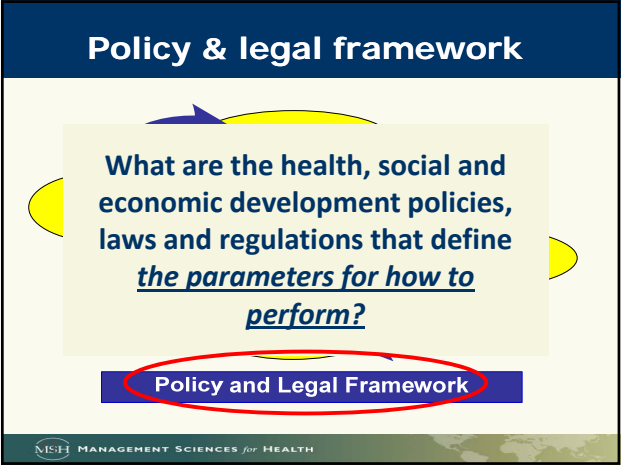
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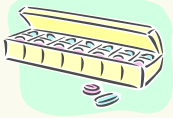
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### What about that pillbox?

- What is a pill box?
  - Can you draw one?
  - How does the concept of a pillbox fit in pharmaceutical management systems?
  - *Hint:*  
There are many types of pillboxes, but they all serve the same purpose.



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### Scenario

- TS is a 33 year old female with HIV disease who takes a total of 9 tablets/day. She has 2 children and works full-time outside the home.
- She says her schedule is hectic & she often can't remember if she's taken her medicines.
- What kind of pillbox does TS need?



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SNAP TOGETHER BOXES

MON e-pill

Prescription Bottle with Audio Label Attached

Aloud Portable Player    Aloud Recorder    Audio Label

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### Why don't *individuals* manage medicines optimally?

- Don't have access to health providers
- Don't have access to medicines
- Medicines available are not of good quality
- Can't afford to pay for medicines
- Don't understand how to take medicines properly
- Too cumbersome to take medicines properly
- Don't believe medicines will work
- Medicines cause troublesome side-effects
- Competing interests... just forget!
- Many, many more reasons...

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### Why don't *health systems* manage medicines optimally?

- Not enough providers to prescribe/dispense
- Products are not available
- Products available are not of good quality
- Products available are not appropriate for health needs
- Can't afford to procure medicines
- Don't understand how medicines should be used
- Too cumbersome to implement pharmaceutical management systems
- Competing interests... food, water, safety!
- Many, many more reasons...

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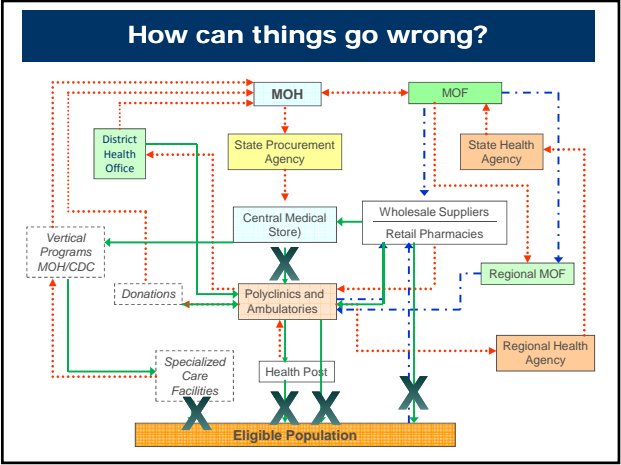
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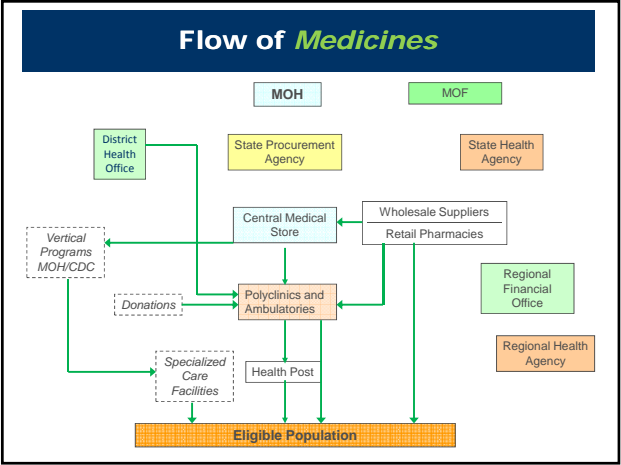
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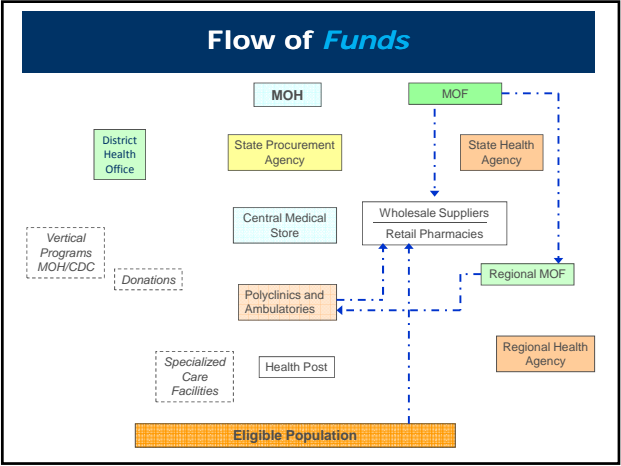
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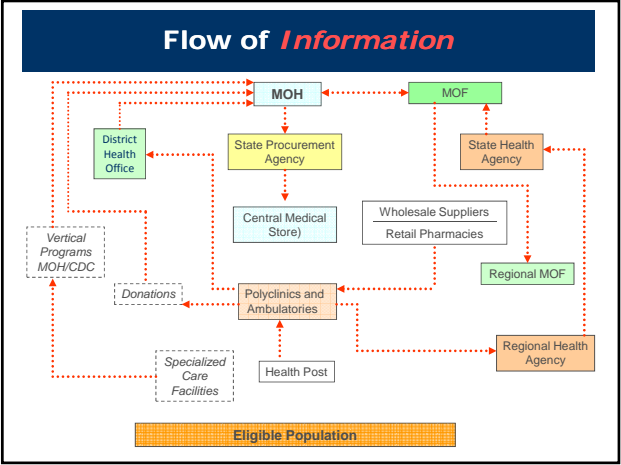
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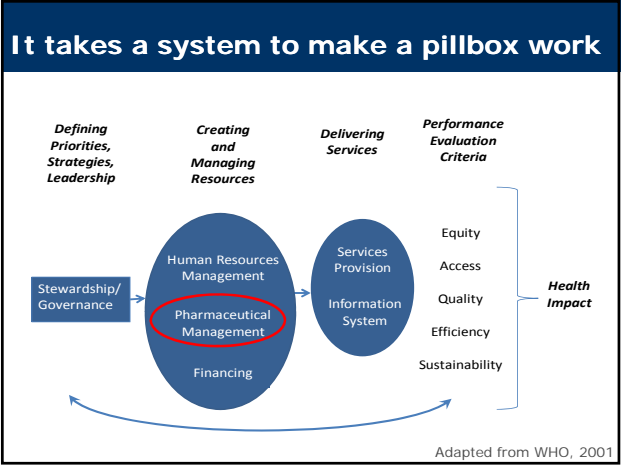
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### The pearl of wisdom...

- Pillboxes only work if you match the box with the patients' medicines needs, have access to the right medicines to put into them, and patients who know how to use them.
- Shortage, improper use and spending on unnecessary or poor quality drugs may be symptoms of potential problems with pharmaceutical management but...
- Pharmaceutical management systems issues are not independent of the health systems in which they function.

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### THE PILLBOX

- **P** harmaceutical management
- **I** ncludes
- **L** ots of important practices – in particular,
- **L** egal/regulatory enablers & the Selection, Procurement, Distribution, & Use of medicines.
- **B** ut these functions shouldn't be addressed
- **O** utside the context of the greater health system.
- **X** cellence in integrating these will lead to quality, efficiency & sustainability.

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