

Donation of medicines to developing countries

Queensland Health Guideline

QH-GDL-946:2013

1 Purpose

This guideline provides recommendations regarding best practice for hospitals and institutions wishing to contribute available resources, which might otherwise be wasted, to help health care in developing countries or disaster situations.

2 Scope

This Guideline provides information for all Queensland public health system employees (permanent, temporary and casual) and all organisations and individuals acting as its agents (including Visiting Medical Officers and other partners, contractors, consultants and volunteers).

3 Related documents

WHO [Guidelines for Drug Donations](#) (revised in 2010)

WHO [Model List of Essential Medicines](#) (EML)

WHO [Essential Medicines List for Children](#) (EMLc)

4 Guideline for donation of medicines to developing countries

In general, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that cash donations are more valuable and less wasteful of resources than donations in kind.

Requests for medicine donations should be assessed against the following guiding principles:

- Any donations must be consistent with WHO guidelines.
- The Department of Health may coordinate a statewide response to disaster situations in developing countries.
- No medicines that might be utilised for the treatment of eligible patients in public hospitals may be donated.

It is important that any donations are beneficial and do not create an additional problem for the receiving country. If a decision is made to donate medicines, the arrangements should be assessed and confirmed to:

- be operating on a legal basis (e.g. operate through an accredited organisation and satisfy customs requirements)
- be based on proper assessment of needs, as expressed by the proposed recipients (and thus understanding that the addressee will be appropriately qualified for rational distribution)
- be limited to drugs in national essential medicines lists for the recipient country, or in the WHO Model [List of Essential Medicines](#)
- include an appropriate method of disposal of collected medicines which are not sent overseas
- involve all medicines having a label which includes the generic or international non-proprietary name
- involve medicines sent overseas having a useful shelf life
- contribute to the continuity, and rational use, of medicines in the recipient country

NB Under the National Health Act 1953, it is illegal to take or send overseas, any medications that have been provided as a benefit under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, unless for personal use.

5 Approval

Justin Lee

Director

Medication Services Queensland

6 Version control

Version	Amendments	Author	Approval
2.0		Andrew Jagels	Dec 2013
3.0	Updated WHO Guidelines, MRQ phone number and template Updated internet links, removed European consortium link	Andrew Jagels	March 2018
4.0	Update WHO guidelines and template	Josie Quin	November 2020

Donation of medicines to developing countries - v 4.0 December 2020

Published by the State of Queensland (Queensland Health), December 2020

This document is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence.



To view a copy of this licence, visit creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au

© State of Queensland (Queensland Health) 2020

You are free to copy, communicate and adapt the work, as long as you attribute the State of Queensland (Queensland Health).

For more information contact:

Medication Services Queensland, Queensland Health, GPO Box 48, Brisbane QLD 4001,
email InfoMSQ@health.qld.gov.au

An electronic version of this document is available at

https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/147601/qh-gdl-946.pdf