

## PRESS RELEASE

from AlGhad , Amman 19 February

2008, <http://www.alghad.jo/index.php?news=308366> (link does not always work, so original article in Arabic pasted below)

**Amman** - A study evaluating transparency in the pharmaceuticals sector in Jordan showed that there was a deficiency in guidance on conflict of interest in the area on medicines registration, medicines inspection, selection and procurement and the lack of policies that regulate the ethical promotion of medicines.

The study, which is part of a Good Governance in Medicines project that Jordan is participating in, and its findings were presented yesterday at a national meeting which included both public and private pharmaceuticals sectors. The study showed that promotion of medicines was highly susceptible to corruption due to the lack of regulatory legislation and lack of any penalties for infringement.

Dr Adi Nusseirat from the JFDA, who led the study, presented the findings and recommended the formation of a Governmental Committee that is responsible for ensuring the ethical promotion of medicines by developing regulations and procedures that regulate the the promotion of medicines at all the stages of the supply chain and monitors unethical promotion of medicines by their manufacturers.

In the area of inspections in a cross section of the pharmacy and academic health facilities the study, which was carried out by the MoH and the JFDA, showed that there was a lack of clear rules either in the selection of inspectors or sites or materials for inspection. In addition there was no capacity for regular inspection. The study recommended setting out guidelines for inspection and conducting regular inspection.

The study also recommended that regulations be developed that require physicians responsible for procurement of medicines in the public sector to only procure from Jordan's rational drugs list (RDL), to specify a finite period for membership of selection and procurement committees. In addition, that these committees should include members with pharmaco-economic expertise, alongside experts in medicines and pharmacy. Another recommendation was to develop national guidelines for the selection of medicines to be added to the RDL and publicising the scientific evidence for selection of any medicine to be added.

The study clarified that no effective security system was in place to monitor and regulate medicine storage and supply [in the public sector]. It recommended that all medical stores be subject to both internal and external accounting systems that are effective and monitor performance of the supply system, as well as linking all the supply stores/units electronically to avoid leakage of medicines from these stores.

The WHO had chosen Jordan as one of 9 countries from across the globe to conduct the Good Governance in medicines project in three stages. The first stage involved an assessment of the degree of transparency in the pharmaceutical sector, which would

be followed by developing a framework for good governance and formation of a committee that would implement the resulting workplan, be responsible for training staff and raising awareness on good conduct.

The director general of the JFDA, Dr Mohammad Rawashdeh said the JFDa will be taking these recommendations seriously. He highlighted that the JFDA had recently produced guidelines for ethical medicines promotion and inspection of manufacturing sites.

According to the WHO country representative, Dr Hashim El Zein, the project aims to increase transparency and accountability in the regulation of medicines and build national capacity in order to achieve good governance.

Dr Wael Nmeir, Deputy Director of the Supply Dept. at the MoH, presented global experience in good governance in medicines and the barriers that face society and prevent its economic and social development, including corruption, abuse of positions of authority and unethical practices that occur at various stages in the medicines supply chain.

**- Ends**

by Amal Tamimi from Petra News Agency (governmental news agency)