

International Non-Proprietary Names for Pharmaceutical Preparations

Every year large numbers of new medicinal substances are introduced into the *materia medica*. This involves a certain hazard to public health by reason of the relatively short time that elapses between the discovery of a new substance and its introduction into therapeutics in a large number of countries. In these circumstances, it is important that no time should be lost in devising methods of assay and in obtaining essential information on the toxicity, pharmacological and clinical action, and side effects of the new substances.

Another problem arises in nomenclature, by the creation, on the one hand, of proprietary names for use by the manufacturer, and, on the other, of non-proprietary, or "open", names for use by national authorities or the authors of scientific papers, pharmacopoeias and other works of specification. For the latter purpose, every attempt should be made to achieve uniformity, in order to avoid the confusion likely to arise where a variety of non-proprietary names exists for the same medicinal substance. In the interests of international public health and commerce, the World Health Organization has been asked to play a part in co-ordinating the efforts which many countries have already made to lay down a nomenclature for important new pharmaceutical preparations. In the case of addiction-producing drugs, a uniform nomenclature greatly facilitates their international control.

It must be recognized that, in this work, it is clearly impossible to select names of reasonable length which, after sufficient search, would not be found to conflict with existing rights to names—registered or unregistered—in one or another country. The operation of the programme must therefore be based on good will.

It is important to afford governments and other interested parties an opportunity of

checking whether a proposed name conflicts with trade or other names in their particular country, account being taken of differences in trade-mark legislation among the 84 Member States and 4 Associate Members of WHO.

A procedure for the selection of recommended international non-proprietary names has already been adopted, in accordance with resolution WHA3.11 of the Third World Health Assembly and resolution EB15.R7 of the WHO Executive Board.¹ Under this procedure, efforts are made to obtain suggestions for non-proprietary names by submitting proposals to the members of the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on the International Pharmacopoeia and Pharmaceutical Preparations designated for this purpose. A Sub-Committee on Non-Proprietary Names of the WHO Expert Committee on the International Pharmacopoeia is meeting in Geneva from 13 to 15 June 1957. The main purpose of this meeting is to examine the names proposed by different authorities for a number of new medicinal substances and to select names on the basis of these suggestions. In addition, ways and means for effecting a rapid selection of names for narcotic drugs are to be discussed. Comments on and objections to names previously proposed and arrangements whereby this work may be facilitated are also to be examined during the course of the meeting.

It is noteworthy that the names already suggested by WHO have been well received in the various countries. Four lists of proposed international non-proprietary names have been published;² a fifth appears below, and it is expected that a further list will be issued after the June meeting.

¹ For a full description of this procedure see *Chron. Wld Hlth Org.*, 1956, 10, 26.

² See *Chron. Wld Hlth Org.*, 1953, 7, 297; 1954, 8, 216, 313; 1956, 10, 28. A list of recommended international non-proprietary names was published in *Chron. Wld Hlth Org.*, 1955, 9, 185.

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL NON-PROPRIETARY NAMES (*Prop. I.N.N.*): LIST 5

In accordance with Article 3 of the Procedure for the Selection of Recommended International Non-proprietary Names for Pharmaceutical Preparations, notice is hereby given that the following names are under consideration by the World Health Organization as Proposed International Non-Proprietary Names.

Comments on, or formal objections to, these proposed names may be forwarded by any person to the Pharmaceutical Section of the World Health Organization within four months from 1 August 1957.

The inclusion of a name in this list does not imply any recommendation for the use of the substance in medicine or pharmacy.

<i>Proposed International Non-Proprietary Name (Latin, English)</i>	<i>Chemical Name or Description</i>
acetylmethadolum acetylmethadol	6-dimethylamino-4,4-diphenyl-3-acetoxyheptane
alphacetylmethadolum alphacetylmethadol	α -6-dimethylamino-4,4-diphenyl-3-acetoxyheptane
alphamethadolum alphamethadol	α -6-dimethylamino-4,4-diphenyl-3-heptanol
anileridinum anileridine	1-[2-(<i>p</i> -aminophenyl)-ethyl]-4-phenylpiperidine-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester
betacetylmethadolum betacetylmethadol	β -6-dimethylamino-4,4-diphenyl-3-acetoxyheptane
betamethadolum betamethadol	β -6-dimethylamino-4,4-diphenyl-3-heptanol
betaprodinum betaprodine	β -1,3-dimethyl-4-phenyl-4-propionoxypiperidine
desomorphinum desomorphine	dihydrodesoxymorphine
dimepheptanolum dimepheptanol	6-dimethylamino-4,4-diphenyl-3-heptanol
dioxaphetyli butyras dioxaphetyl butyrate	4-morpholino-2,2-diphenyl ethyl butyrate
dipipanonium dipipanone	4,4-diphenyl-6-piperidino-3-heptanone
ethoheptazinum ethoheptazine	1-methyl-4-carbethoxy-4-phenylhexamethylenecimine
hydroxypethidinum hydroxypethidine	1-methyl-4-(3-hydroxyphenyl)-piperidine-4-carboxylic acid ethyl ester
metethoheptazinum metethoheptazine	1,3-dimethyl-4-carbethoxy-4-phenylhexamethylenecimine
methheptazinum methheptazine	1,2-dimethyl-4-carbomethoxy-4-phenylhexamethylenecimine
methyldesorphinum methyldesorphine	6-methyl- Δ^5 -desoxymorphine
methyldihydromorphinum methyldihydromorphine	6-methyldihydromorphine

*Proposed International
Non-Proprietary Name
(Latin, English)*

Chemical Name or Description

myrophinum	myristyl ester of benzylmorphine
myrophine	
normethadonum	4,4-diphenyl-6-dimethylamino-3-hexanone
normethadone	
oxpheneridinum	1-(2-phenyl-2-hydroxyethyl)-4-carbethoxy-4-phenylpiperidine
oxpheneridine-	
oxymorphonum	dihydrohydroxymorphinone
oxymorphone	
pheneridinum	1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-carbethoxy-4-phenylpiperidine
pheneridine	
phenomorphanum	3-hydroxy-N-phenethylmorphinan
phenomorphan	
proheptazinum	1,3-dimethyl-4-phenyl-4-propionoxyhexamethyleneimine
proheptazine	
properidinum	1-methyl-4-phenylpiperidine-4-carboxylic acid, isopropyl ester
properidine	
propoxyphenum	4-dimethylamino-1,2-diphenyl-3-methyl-2-propionoxybutane
propoxyphene	
thebaconum	acetyldihydrocodeinone
thebacon	