



UNIVERSITY OF  
**KWAZULU-NATAL**<sup>TM</sup>  
INYUVESI  
**YAKWAZULU-NATALI**

## **HEALTH SYSTEMS BUILDING BLOCKS SESSION 5- MEDICAL PRODUCTS, VACCINES AND TECHNOLOGIES**

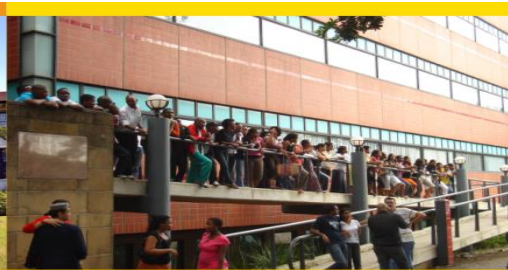
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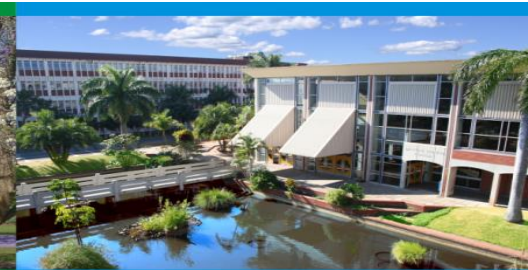
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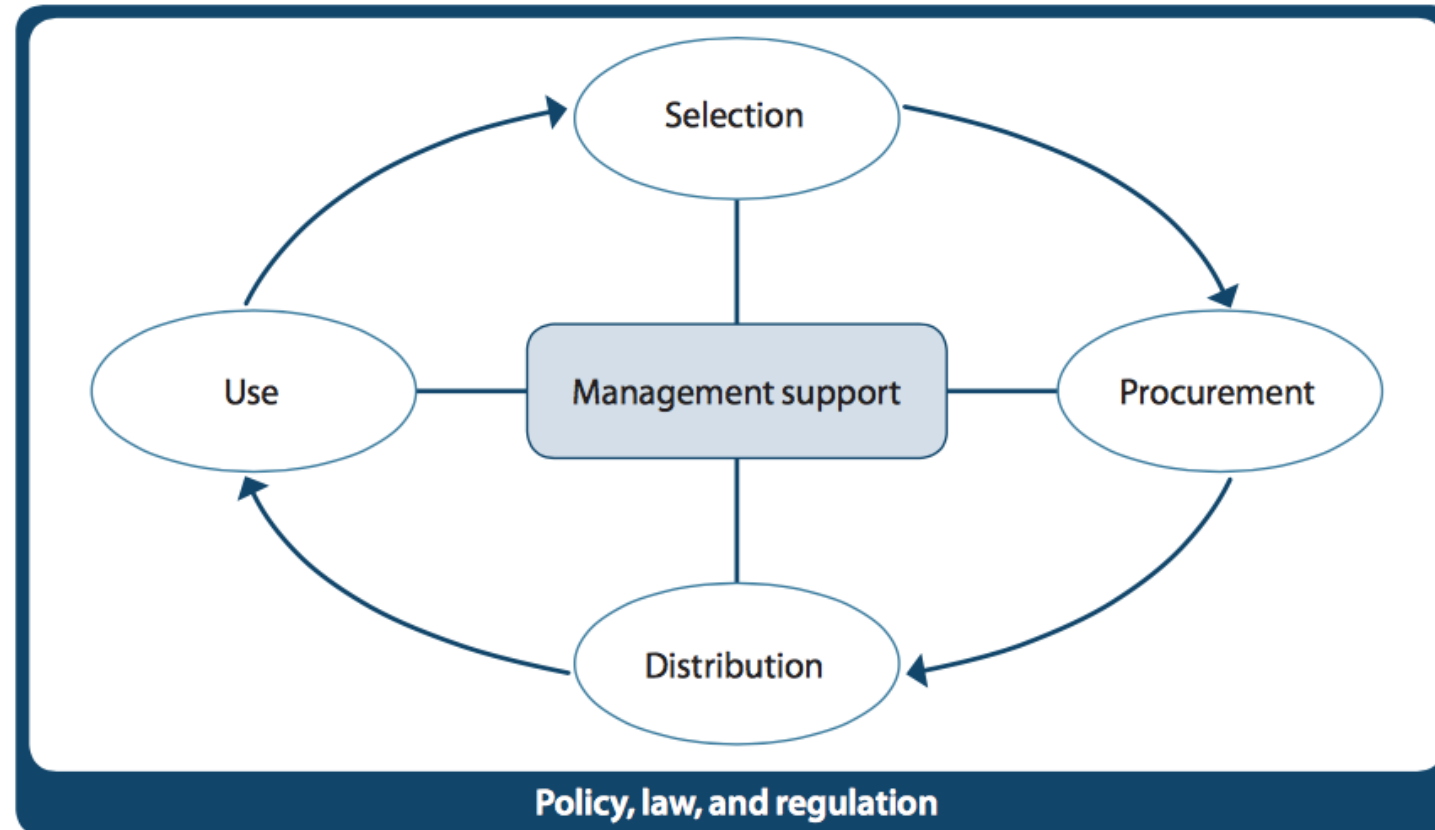
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# MEDICINES, VACCINES AND TECHNOLOGIES

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- Ensuring equitable access to and appropriate use of medical products, vaccines, and health technologies is a core function of a health system.
- This goal should be underpinned by policies, standards, regulations, transparency on prices, quality assurance, and efficient procurement and distribution systems.

# Components of the framework



# What does this building block refer to?

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- all the structures, people, resources, processes, and their interactions with the broader health system that aim to ensure equitable and timely access to safe, effective, quality pharmaceutical products and related services that promote their appropriate and cost-effective use to improve health outcomes.

# Selection

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- Essential medicines are those that “satisfy the priority health care needs of the population”
- Should be selected based on public health need, disease prevalence, clinical safety and efficacy, and comparative cost information.
- To ensure efficacy, safety, and cost-effectiveness of essential medicines and commodities and minimize undue influence and inconsistency, decision making must be guided by clearly defined criteria and based on sound and unbiased evidence.

# Important principle

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- Developing a structure for the medicine selection committee that provides accountability and delineates authority is essential for engaging key stakeholders and stewarding resources.
- ensuring transparency can help safeguard the selection process from conflicts of interest.

# Procurement

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- *The system that supports pharmaceutical procurement plays a major role in determining the availability of medicines and their total costs.*
- *Ensuring that the pharmaceutical procurement system functions effectively and efficiently is therefore essential to the financial strength of a health system*
- *Effective financial and logistics management systems must be established to ensure timely and reliable payment and accurate forecasting and quantification.*

# Procurement

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- Transparency, written procedures, and separation of functions are essential aspects of fair and competitive procurement processes, which are necessary to attract the best suppliers and prices and protect against the influence of special interests.



# Effective distribution system

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- An effective distribution system sustains a steady supply of medicines and commodities to facilities where they are needed while ensuring that resources are used effectively and efficiently.
- A well-managed distribution system ensures that medicines are in good condition throughout the distribution process, minimizes losses due to spoilage or expiration, maintains accurate inventory records, provides information for forecasting, and limits theft and fraud.

# Policies, laws and regulations

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- Policies, laws, and regulations lay the foundation on which the pharmaceutical system functions and play a critical role in promoting efficiency, effectiveness, and patient safety
- A national medicine policy is a “political commitment and a guide for action that shows how the government will ensure that medicines are efficacious