

Revising the International Health Regulations

IOM Seminar, June 2004
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 WHO Geneva

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY EPIDEMIC ALERT AND RESPONSE



IHR purpose

“ensure the maximum security against the international spread of disease with a minimum interference with world traffic”

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IHR principle

- The best way to prevent international spread of diseases is to detect public health threats early with effective response actions when the problem is small.

This requires:

- **Early detection of unusual disease events by effective national disease surveillance**
- **International co-ordination as a necessary part of effective response to public health emergencies of international concern**

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The International Health Regulations

The IHR are now out of date, in the following ways:

- new disease risks are not included in the Regulations
- Measures must be "pre-set", but outbreaks have different contexts and impacts
- Collaboration is not encouraged in the existing IHR

Key changes for the revised IHR

- Notification – PHEICs
- Defined core capacities
- Recommended measures during PHEIC
- External advice part of process
- National Focal Points for IHR

"Real time" Event Management

Confidential/provisional notification of "public health emergencies of international concern"

– events and risks

unofficial sources

verification support

response support

template of recommendations & measures

electronic publication and updates

Persons entering States

- Draft Article 37.1 allows additional public health measures for migrants, nomads and seasonal workers
- IHR contain historical "ceiling" on measures for travellers (business persons, tourists, crew)
- Article 36 says medical examinations for travellers shall not be invasive
- Rights of persons more clearly defined in Article 36 – "without prejudice to applicable (human rights) legislation"



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones



IOM's International Dialogue on Migration
Co-sponsored by WHO and CDC

Seminar on Health and Migration, 9-11 June 2004
Session IIIA: Migration and Health Policies
The International Health Regulations
Mr William COCKSEGE

Process for revision

- Regional consultations 2004
- IGWG meeting November 2004 to review and revise draft
- Draft tabled at WHA, May 2005
- Member States given up to 6 months to register reservations to Articles (reservations subject to WHA approval)
- IHR, if adopted, would come into force January 2006



EPIDEMIC ALERT AND RESPONSE



IHR National Focal Points

- National technical co-ordinating site (public health institution) for the IHR revision process
- Co-ordinate the analysis of national public health events and risks
- Advise national authorities on notifications made to WHO and recommendations from WHO
- Disseminate information to, and co-ordinate input from, key national areas: disease surveillance, port, airport and ground crossing public health services, medical facilities and other government departments



EPIDEMIC ALERT AND RESPONSE

