

Quality network for rational drug management

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The Quality Network for Rational Drug Management (Qu4RaD) is an international collaboration that aims to assist people to improve the use of medicines for health care. The URL is www.qu4rad.net. The network aims to provide universal access to medicines according to peoples' needs, to encourage the best use of medicines according to scientific, cultural and moral-ethical reasoning and to improve the knowledge and skills of health professionals, patients and citizens for rational use of medicines. The network also seeks to obtain sustainable resources for network functioning.

The network is collaboration between Europe and Asia seeking to ensure rational drug management at the primary healthcare (PHC) level. The network was formed as a partnership of the European universities, the department of Tropical hygiene and public health of the University of Heidelberg, the Université Catholique de Lovain of Belgium and the Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disaster and Asian universities, Institute of Philippine Culture, Ateneo de Manila University and Indian Institute of Health Management Research, Jaipur. Dennis Batangan of the Philippines is the overall supervisor.

The overall appearance of the website is good with different sections, Home, Library, Forums, Search, the Community and about Qu4RaD. You can select the language of the site (English or Tagalog) and there is a Qu4RaD bulletin board. Recent articles posted on the site are listed. At the beginning of February 2006, Medicines basket for chronic conditions, new WHO-HAI report on drug promotion and Ethical challenges in ARV therapy were some of the topics covered. The library section contains various subsections called proceed to articles, to announcements, reports, references and white papers, links and forum related resources. The articles are divided into various groups called essential medicine list and treatment guidelines, issues on access of essential medicines, rational drug use and rational drug management. However, a problem noted was that a few links and hyperlinks were not functional. The virtual discussion forums are country specific, India, Philippines, Belgium and Germany and a forum for all regions.

You can register and create an individual profile in the website. The bulletin board contains various posts and the threads posted in response to the post. Satellite procurement and supply management of HIV medicines, rational drug policy and management-diseases of poverty, teaching pharmacy and medical students about promotion are a few posts.

The website is a useful addition to the networking sites promoting rational drug use. However, more work is needed to ensure a top class website. We invite primary healthcare providers, policy makers, medical professionals and all those interested in promoting more rational use of medicines to join this site and network for improving rational drug use.