

## **Role of Drug Shops in Malaria Control**

Hla Soe Tint, Thein Tun, Khin Lin, Saw Lwin, Than Win, Thar Tun Kyaw and Moe Kyaw  
Myint,

Myanmar Health Research Congress, 2007

### **Abstract**

Antimalarial drug selling pattern should be improved to achieve prompt and effective treatment at the community level. The study aimed to assess the effectiveness of educational intervention activities among the drug sellers in study townships compared to those in control townships. Intervention was introduced by conducting one-day workshop on latest antimalarial treatment guidelines in Kyaukse, Madayar, and Singu townships while Thabeikkyin, Pyinoolwin, and Myitthar townships were regarded as controls. Drug sellers were continuously encouraged to sell antimalarial drugs according to guidelines and the constraints were identified and solved during monthly visits of research team. This study was conducted from May, 2006 to April, 2007. Local drug sellers were made understand that, selling antimalarials according to the guidelines would cure the disease, and prevent the emergence of drug-resistance malaria. 46 drug shops in intervention townships and 65 drug shops in control townships were included in the study. It was found that number of full-course drug selling episodes in intervention townships exceeded than that of control townships (14,692 versus 10,819). 5,493 consumers who initially intended to buy a partial-course were successfully advised to take a complete-course in intervention townships with only 1,760 in control townships ( $p < 0.001$ ). 836 versus 93 episodes of selling ACT (Self-combined, full-course) took place in intervention and control townships respectively ( $p < 0.000$ ). The reasons for selling partial-courses included high price (44.2%), customers' habit (10.9%), and customers' belief on antimalarials as dangerous drugs (17.7%). The majority (over 70%) of the partial-courses was sold for self-medication. It was found that the local drug sellers can contribute to some extent in malaria disease management as a health educator in the community.