

# Improving Drug Safety: A Global Challenge to Protect Public Health

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## ABOUT THE STUDY

Drugs are an essential part of modern healthcare. They can help us to prevent, diagnose, and treat a wide range of diseases. However, drugs can also be harmful if they are not used safely. Every year, millions of people around the world are injured or die from adverse drug reactions.

There are a number of factors that contribute to drug safety problems. One is the complexity of drugs themselves. Many drugs have multiple ingredients, and the interactions between these ingredients can be complex and unpredictable. Another factor is the lack of information about drug safety. Often, the information that is available is incomplete or inaccurate. This can make it difficult for healthcare professionals to make informed decisions about drug use.

The problem of drug safety is a global challenge. It affects people in all countries, regardless of their income level or level of development. However, the problem is particularly acute in developing countries. This is because developing countries often have less robust drug safety systems than developed countries. As a result, people in developing countries are more likely to be exposed to unsafe drugs.

There are a number of things that can be done to improve drug safety. One is to strengthen drug safety systems. This includes improving the regulation of drugs, increasing the availability of information about drug safety, and training healthcare professionals in drug safety. Another important step is to increase public awareness of drug safety. This can help people to make informed decisions about drug use and to report any adverse drug reactions that they experience.

Improving drug safety is a complex challenge, but it is one that is essential to protecting public health. By working together, we can make drugs safer for everyone.

## Steps to improve drug safety

Here are some specific steps that can be taken to improve drug safety:

**Improve the regulation of drugs:** This includes setting clear

standards for the safety and efficacy of drugs, and ensuring that these standards are met before drugs are approved for use.

**Increase the availability of information about drug safety:** This information should be accessible to healthcare professionals, patients, and the general public. It should include information about the risks and benefits of drugs, as well as how to use them safely.

**Train healthcare professionals in drug safety:** This training should cover the risks and benefits of drugs, how to identify and manage adverse drug reactions, and how to communicate with patients about drug safety.

**Increase public awareness of drug safety:** This can be done through public education campaigns, patient information leaflets, and other initiatives.

**By taking these steps, we can make drugs safer for everyone:** This will help to improve the quality of life for millions of people around the world and save lives.

In addition to the above, there are a number of other challenges that need to be addressed in order to improve drug safety.

Counterfeit drugs are often made with substandard ingredients and may not contain the active ingredients that they claim to contain. They can also be contaminated with harmful substances.

Mobile health apps are becoming increasingly popular, but they are not always regulated. This means that there is a risk that they may contain inaccurate or misleading information about drug safety.

Antimicrobial resistance is a serious threat to global health. It occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites become resistant to the drugs that are used to treat them. This can make it difficult or impossible to treat infections, and can lead to serious illness and death.

These are just some of the challenges that need to be addressed in order to improve drug safety. It is a complex issue, but it is one that is essential to protecting public health. By working together, we can make drugs safer for everyone.

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