

# Safe access to morphine for people in need

Reflecting backward and looking forward

**WHO**  
**Webinar II**

**12 September 2023**

Coordinated Universal Time **1230 to 1400**



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September is Pain Awareness Month!

In June 2023, WHO published a report *Left behind in pain* [\[link\]](#), which describes the extent and causes of global variations in access to morphine for medical use. In this webinar, representatives from the World Health Organization, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and Médecins sans frontières will reflect on the work programmes and challenges in ensuring safe access to morphine and other strong opioids, in line their mandates in promoting and protecting health, human rights and to pursue primary care and universal health coverage according to covenants, resolutions, and principles endorsed by the United Nations. They will present the findings from the WHO report, how to manage access to controlled medicines and inform drug policy through data, policies to prevent misuse and widespread availability of illicit unregulated opioids, and the challenges of providing access to morphine in humanitarian settings. The expert panel will exchange their views on ways for overcoming the long-standing challenges in bringing safe access to people in need globally.

## Expert panel

### **Stefano Berterame**

Chief, Narcotics Control and Estimates Section  
Secretariat of the International Narcotic Control Board Secretariat (INCB)  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

### **Christa Cepuch**

Pharmacist Coordinator, MSF Access Campaign, Geneva

### **Gilles Forte**

Head (Special Projects), Division of Medicines and Health Products, WHO, Geneva  
Secretary, Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, World Health Organization

### **Elizabeth Sáenz**

Drug Control and Crime Prevention Officer, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation  
Section, Drug Laboratory and Scientific Services Branch  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)



**World Health  
Organization**



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