



# Preventive *chemotherapy* in human helminthiasis



World Health  
Organization

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**Coordinated use of anthelmintic drugs  
in control interventions:**

***a manual for health professionals and  
programme managers***



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# *Abbreviations*

ALB	albendazole
APOC	African Programme for Onchocerciasis Control
CDTI	community-directed treatment with ivermectin
DEC	diethylcarbamazine (citrate)
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
GLP	good laboratory practice
GMP	good manufacturing practice
IVM	ivermectin
LEV	levamisole
LF	lymphatic filariasis
MBD	mebendazole
MDA	mass drug administration
NGDO	nongovernmental development organization
NGO	nongovernmental organization
ONCHO	onchocerciasis
PPC	Partners for Parasite Control
PYR	pyrantel
PZQ	praziquantel
SAE	serious adverse experience
SCH	schistosomiasis
SCHi	intestinal schistosomiasis
SCHu	urinary schistosomiasis
STH	soil-transmitted helminthiasis

# *Preface*

A first draft of this manual was prepared by the World Health Organization (WHO) in consultation with Professor D.W.T. Crompton, Institute of Biomedical and Life Sciences, University of Glasgow, Scotland.

After circulation to a number of experts, the draft was revised in the light of their comments and input. It was further reviewed at the Informal Consultation on Preventive Chemotherapy in Human Helminthiasis, which took place at WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, on 16–17 March 2006.

Subsequently, WHO staff, in close collaboration with Professor D.W.T. Crompton, who chaired the Informal Consultation, undertook further revision of the manual on the basis of comments and suggestions made by participants. The resulting draft was circulated to all concerned before being finalized for publication.

# Glossary

The definitions given below apply to the terms as used in this manual. They may have different meanings in other contexts.

**adverse reaction (to a drug)**

Noxious and unintended reaction, which occurs at doses normally used in humans for the prophylaxis, diagnosis or treatment of disease, or for the modification of physiological function.

**drug distribution channel**

The mechanism through which anthelmintic drugs are provided to target communities or population groups.

**eligible population**

Group of individuals qualified or entitled to receive anthelmintic treatment in preventive chemotherapy interventions. Eligible populations may vary from high-risk groups in targeted treatment interventions to the entire population living in endemic areas in mass drug administration (MDA) interventions. See also *ineligible population*.

**haematuria**

Presence of red blood cells in the urine.

*Macrohaematuria* – blood is present in sufficient quantity to be seen by visual inspection of the urine sample (the urine is red or brown in colour).

*Microhaematuria* – blood is present in insufficient quantity to be visible to the naked eye but is detectable using a reagent strip.

**helminthiasis**

A general term for any form of disease that accompanies a helminth infection. In most cases the onset and severity of detectable morbidity in a person are related to the number of worms present.

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