

310.00

**EXPERIENCES OF IMPLEMENTATION OF WHO PROGRAMS ON CHILD HEALTH IN  
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS IN ARMENIA**

**S. Sargsyan**

*Department of Paediatrics, Republican Paediatric Hospital, State Medical University, Yerevan,  
Armenia*

*[sargsyans@dolphin.am](mailto:sargsyans@dolphin.am)*

At the time of establishing independence, IMR in Armenia was at level of 18.5 per 1000 live births (1992). Mortality due to ARI and diarrhea were at the rates of 4.8 and 2.5 per 1000 respectively. The health system of Armenia inherited many problems from the Soviet period. The inpatient sector played a dominant role, but the outpatient sector was underdeveloped. The health staff had lack of knowledge and practice on out-patient management of diseases. Misclassification at primary level led to the cases of late hospitalizations, while many children with non-complicated forms of diseases had been treated in the hospitals. In collaboration with WHO and UNICEF the National programs for Control of ARI and diarrheal diseases in children were initiated in 1994. The comprehensive adaptation of WHO materials was done. A total number of 1040 health workers were trained at nationwide courses. A new model of on-job refreshing training was developed and introduced. With support of UNICEF, health facilities were provided with drugs and equipment. 300,000 booklets for families were distributed through health facilities. As a result, ARI and diarrheal IMRs have decreased dramatically: from 4.8 in 1992 to 2.3 in 2001 for ARI and from 2.5 to 0.7 for diarrhea. Surveys have shown significant improvement in the practices of health workers at primary level. Presented data shows appropriateness and effectiveness of the WHO programs for improving child health status in NIS countries.

