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**Pharmaceutical service in the Podkarpackie Region during 1944-2004 versus changes in laws related to trade of medicinal drugs**

Provision of pharmaceuticals, defined as distribution of medicinal drugs and other goods used in the process of treating a patient, is one of the essential tasks of the health care system functioning in the country.

The time from 1944 to 2004, in the history of the administrative changes in south-eastern Poland, was a period during which there were a few significant organizational reforms in subordination of specific types of territorial units and the method of supplying medicinal drugs to all eligible economic entities.

The operation of pharmaceutical provisions system has been described based on the example of Podkarpacie, with a focus to changes occurring during the sixty years, in the new political system, from the end of World War II until the time Poland joined the European Union.

The theses reviews basic definitions adopted in pharmaceutical law. It looks at various aspects related to the organization of the supply of medicinal products to in-patient healthcare facilities and to individual patients; it also discusses medicinal drug, as a specific preparation subject to trade, and its special place in the sphere of healthcare. It presents the process of making legal regulations related to specific aspects of introducing therapeutic agents into the market, distribution via generally accessible pharmacies, and the system of prescription charges. One chapter focuses on post-graduate education of pharmacists.

The history of changes related to provision of pharmaceuticals in Poland can be divided into three major periods: 1944-1950 – entities involved in trade of pharmaceuticals owned by various sectors of economy; 1951-1989 – complete domination of state ownership; 1989-2004 – restoration of the possibility to establish both manufacturing and distribution operations owned by entities other than the state. The thesis also presents specialist literature on medicinal drugs as well as institutions responsible for approving medicines for use.