WHO initiatives on access to medicines in the European region

multipronged approaches for complex problems

Facing the Challenges: Equity, Sustainability and Access to Medicines
29 - 30 November 2018
INFARMED, I.P. - Lisbon, Portugal

Hanne Bak Pedersen, WHO Europe
WHO Regional European Office (EURO)

- 53 Member States
- 900 million inhabitants
- 4 official languages
- Headquarters in Copenhagen
- 29 country offices
- 5 geographically dispersed offices
Public share of spending on pharmaceuticals is lower when compared with health services

Source: OECD/EU (2016), Health at a Glance: Europe 2016 and WHO HFI 2018
Medicines are the main driver of catastrophic spending among poor households.

Inpatient care
Diagnostic tests
Dental care
Outpatient care
Medical products
Medicines

Catastrophic OOPs (%)

Stronger protection
Weaker protection

WHO Barcelona Office for Health Systems Strengthening
Gaps in cost coverage of medicines in many countries

Depth of drug coverage by country group

OECD | New EU members & Balkans | CIS
--- | --- | ---
75-100% | 50-75% | 0-50%

Source: World Bank 2013
1. Efficient regulation and rational selection
   Efficient regulation of quality and safety. Reimbursement lists elaborated using transparent and accountable procedures, up-to-date treatment guidelines elaborated using the best evidence, etc.

2. Quality assured medical product at affordable prices
   Price negotiation, sound generic policies, etc.

3. Sustainable financing
   Increase and prioritization of public funding for medicines, identification of efficiency gains, etc.

4. Reliable health and supply systems
   Development of pharmaceutical national policies, quality assurance reinforcement, etc.
Ensuring access to medicines and health products requires efficient regulation, policies and regulation in all steps of the value chain.

lack of coordination decrease access to medicines
Let us look at some of the individual steps in the value chain
Collaboration and convergence in regulation of quality and safety

- Efficiency in regulation as the basis for access - WHO prequalification
- WHO Collaborative Registration Procedure (CRP)
Principles of WHO Collaborative Procedure

- Voluntary for manufacturers and NMRAs and does not interfere with national decision making process and regulatory fees
- WHO-PQT shares with interested regulators detailed outcomes of its assessment and inspections to support their decision making in exchange for accelerated registration process
- Product and registration dossier in countries are 'the same' as approved by PQP. Co-operation among PQ holder (manufacturer), NMRA in interested country and PQP overcomes confidentiality issues, ensures information flow and product identity
- 'Harmonized product status' is monitored and maintained
Steps of the procedure: registration

1. Manufacturer informs PQP about national submission and gives consent with information sharing.
2. Participating NMRA confirms its interest to participate in procedure for specific product.
3. PQP shares with participating NMRA outcomes of assessment and inspections.
4. Participating NMRA reviews WHO PQP outcomes, decides within 90 days, decides upon the national registration and informs PQP about its decision.
5. PQ product is submitted for national registration to NMRA participating in the procedure. NMRA is informed about the interest to follow PQP.
Steps of the procedure: post-registration

Variations

PQP informs NMRAs about important variations

NMRAs inform PQP about variations and decisions leading to inconsistency with PQP conditions

Post-PQ and post-registration actions

WHO PQP informs NMRA about withdrawals, suspensions or de-listings of prequalified medicinal products

NMRAs inform PQP about national de-registration
Pilot initiated in June 2012, now operational process Participating NMRAs from 35 countries

Africa
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Cameroon
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zanzibar
- Zimbabwe

Europe/Asia
- Armenia
- Belarus
- Georgia
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Ukraine
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Philippines
Median time to registration

Days

Median Time (days) to Registration

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Win-win outcomes for all stakeholders

• Manufacturers
  – Harmonized data for PQ and national registration
  – Facilitated interaction with NRAs in assessment, inspections & testing
  – Accelerated and more predictable registration
  – Easier post-registration maintenance

• Procurers
  – Time, assurance, availability

• Patients
  – Fast access to new medicines and medical devices
Selection, pricing and reimbursement

- WHO model list on essential medicines
- WHO list of essential diagnostics
- WHO list of priority medical devices
- WHO priority assistive product list
Selection, pricing and reimbursement

WHO Model List in combination with WHO PQ has increased equity in access for some key products and moved toward UHC - for certain diseases like HIV, HCV where WHO prequalified medicines and medical devices have become available at affordable prices. So prioritization and efficient regulation is the basis - an important step ....

Looking beyond the WHO PQ there are other fast track regulatory systems - the questions is who stands to benefit the most from these other schemes?
Procurement and supply management

We all know that effective procurement can deliver real benefits

- Procurement is viewed, by many, as a strategic function working to improve the organization’s cost base and WHO Europe has targeted their country collaboration around this key step in the value chain

- It can be seen as helping to streamline processes, reduce input costs, and identify better sources of supply

- In essence, helping to reduce the 'bottom line'

- Several WHO consultations has been held in 2017-18 to foster knowledge sharing and collaboration
Procurement and supply management

WHO Europe’s focus has been on strategic procurement and poor practice costs money. Some critical reasons why procurement exercises fail:

- Not being clear about what you are prepared to pay, poor assessment of true cost & poor management of information asymmetry
- Poor analysis of the market and poor planning - timing of procurement leading to lost opportunities, delays and additional costs
- Buying the wrong product - Clarity of purpose and stakeholder engagement
- Poor bid assessment processes
- Procurement team does not access the right skills and support.
Procurement and supply management

Managing the risk of failure... Planning is key!
Procurement is hard! You must plan for and expect the unexpected!
Procurement and supply management

• Cross-border dialogue and collaboration on procurement an important element is shaping procurement scenarios for new high priced medicines as well as for addressing shortages
Challenges and problems along the value chain: lack of coordination of regulation, policies and strategies that increase access to medicines

- Pharmaceutical budget do not cover the ‘need’ for all medicines
- Prioritisation, monitoring, reassessment and redistribution of pharmaceutical spend
- Prioritization of the public pharmaceutical expenditure ‘out of tune’
- OOPP on essential medicines too high in some countries
- Achieving UHC requires coordination and balancing competing objectives
Ensuring access to medicines and health products requires legislation, regulation, governance, monitoring, follow up throughout the product life cycle.
THANK YOU