

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the first AMDSmail. The purpose of this news-brief is to keep you informed on key procurement and supply management (PSM) related developments and activities by the Aids, Medicine and Diagnostic Services (AMDS) team, and our partner organizations (for a full list of our partners please see <http://www.who.int/hiv/amds>).

AMDSmail will be produced every 3 months. In order to maintain two-way traffic with our partners and readers of AMDSmail, we'd be delighted to publish whatever comments and contributions you may have. In addition, important new developments will be sent out separately as AMDSnewsflash. If you need further information, please contact us at AMDS@who.int (attention Kenji Tamura).

In the news

New dosage recommended by WHO for stavudine (d4T)

Stavudine (d4T), one of the key components of ART, is now recommended at the dose of 30 mg twice daily for all adult and adolescent patients regardless of body weight. This recommendation, which was previously considered an option, is now established as the preferred approach in situations when d4T is used. Other technical and operational recommendations related to the clinical management of stavudine in the 2006 WHO guidelines remain unchanged.

► [More information](#)

Global Fund Round 7: PSM plan for health system strengthening (HSS)

Applicants for Global Fund round 7 are encouraged to include a request for funding of HSS Strategic Actions within their specific disease component(s), provided that these actions are essential to reducing the impact and spread of the disease(s) targeted in the proposal. As indicated in section 4.4.2 of the Guidelines for proposals, specific actions to strengthen health systems may be necessary in order for the component proposal to be successful. HSS Strategic Actions may include the following areas:

- Essential medicines and other pharmaceutical products management
- Procurement systems
- Logistics, including transport and communications

► [Guidelines for R7 application](#)

► [R7 proposal documentations](#)

In collaboration with WHO/AFRO, the UN Procurement and Supply Management working group and GFATM, the AMDS secretariat has prepared a checklist for PSM issues to be considered in preparation of GFATM proposals.

► [AMDS checklist for PSM issues in R7](#)

AMDS projects

PSM toolbox project launched

WHO/AMDS and its partner organizations initiated this project to develop a PSM toolbox for HIV-related health commodities. It provides a comprehensive listing of available PSM tools for HIV-related health commodities which experts at country level can use to find and

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UNITAID supports price reduction of 6 second line ARVs

UNITAID has established a partnership with CHAI to fund and provide medicines for the Second-Line treatment (ABC, DDI, LPV/r, TDF, TDF/FTC, TDF/3TC) to 27 developing countries. CHAI issued an open invitation in March 2007 to 15 manufacturers for proposals to supply second-line drugs this year. Cipla and Matrix agreed to price their drugs on a "cost-plus" basis and collaborated to lower production costs, in part by securing lower prices for key raw materials and by addressing major chemistry challenges. UNITAID funds will allow CHAI to purchase these price-reduced medicines, guaranteeing purchase volumes.

► [About UNITAID](#)

Launched in 2006, UNITAID is an international drug purchase facility that is based on a stable, predictable and "innovative" form of funding – an airline ticket levy – used to fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. In total, 34 countries have either joined or committed themselves to join UNITAID as donors. The funding for 2007 will total US\$ 300 million, and is expected to exceed US\$ 500 million in 2009.

Abbott lowers prices of Kaletra/Aluvia (lopinavir/ritonavir) after discussion with Director-General of WHO

Following a discussion with World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General, Dr. Margaret Chan, Abbott agreed to a balanced approach to provide Kaletra/Aluvia (lopinavir/ritonavir) capsules and tablets to more patients in the developing world. Now the new price of Kaletra/Aluvia is US\$ 500 per patient per year for Africa and least developed countries and US\$ 1000 for low income and lower middle income countries.

► [Link to the official press release](#)

select the most appropriate guideline, software package, etc, for their setting. Currently available as an excel table, the second version will have an improved, searchable user interface with a feedback option. In the meantime, we would welcome your ideas on how we can improve the matrix by adding extra tools and feature.

► [PSM toolbox \(1st version\)](#)

Capacity building and training workshops on drug procurement and supply management

One of the biggest challenges that procurement systems meet is how to ensure efficient management of commodities (diagnostics, condoms, drugs and other medical supplies). WHO and AMDS partners are working together to assist Member States to strengthen the capacity of human resources involved in drug procurement and supply management.

A complete schedule of the various workshops on procurement and supply management can be

found on AMDS website. The next training workshops by AMDS partners planned for June 2007 are on drug procurement and supply management by IDA Solutions and WHO/AFRO, respectively.

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Stories from the field

Creating a quality supply chain in Guyana for quality health care

Interview with Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, Minister of Health Guyana

Dr. Leslie Ramsammy: HIV/AIDS is a serious public health problem for Guyana—and a developmental issue as well. The issue of how countries can access affordable antiretroviral drugs has become central to our trade discussions. It is one of the few public health issues that has impacted our development in the traditional 'economic sphere' of trade.

▶ More information

Breaking through barriers: Delivering essential medicines in the developing world

John C. Sheptor, Deputy Project Director, Supply Chain Management System (SCMS)

Around the world, a cornucopia of medicines, food and other vital goods move from producer to consumer in an efficient, cost-effective and secure manner, while generally maintaining the quality of the product.

▶ AIDSLink | issue 102, 1 April 2007

Publications

Handbook of supply management (version 1)

WHO/AMDS and its partner organizations have released first version of a Handbook of Supply Management at First-Level Health Care Facilities in English and in French. The Handbook describes all major medicines and supply management tasks, known as the standard procedures of medicines supply management at first-level health care facilities.

Each chapter of the Handbook covers one major task, explains how the task fits into the process of maintaining a consistent supply of medicines, and recommends which standard procedures to use. Two HIV/AIDS specific chapters, 'How to start ART' and 'How to scale up ART' have been written for this new version of Handbook. Annexes at the back of the handbook contain various checklists and examples of forms which can be introduced as needed at your health care facility. The adaptation guide and exercises are currently being prepared. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding these handbooks, we would like to hear from you.

▶ Handbook version 1 (English)

▶ Handbook version 1 (French)

A quarterly summary report from Global Price Reporting Mechanism

The Global Price Reporting Mechanism (GPRM) is a web-based price monitoring tool that captures the transaction data (price, volume, source) of ARV drugs, to help HIV/AIDS treatment programmes in countries to identify and compare pricing for procurement of HIV drugs. GPRM was created and first launched by WHO/AMDS in April 2005.

The latest quarterly report compares the transaction prices of key 1st and 2nd line ARV regimens paid in the last 3 months by low and middle income countries

to those in the previous years. It indicates that the prices of the first line regimens continue to decrease and the combination of stavudine/lamivudine/nevirapine (d4T/3TC/NVP) is now available for less than US\$ 100 per patient per year, while the second line regimens still remain much more expensive in both low income and middle income countries

▶ A quarterly summary report (March 2007)

▶ Global Price Reporting Mechanism (GPRM)

WHO Prequalification Annual report 2006

WHO Prequalification of medicines programme has released its Annual Report 2006. This latest issue provides you with the general information about the WHO prequalification programme as well as its activities and development achieved during the last year.

▶ WHO Prequalification web site

▶ WHO Prequalification Annual Report 2006

Events

- **2007 HIV/AIDS Implementers' meeting:** Scaling up with partnership
16-19 June, Kigali, Rwanda
- **IAS 2007:** 4th IAS Conference on HIV pathogenesis, treatment and prevention
22-25 July, Sydney, Australia
- **8th ICAAP:** The 8th International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific
19-23 August, Colombo, Sri Lanka

About new WHO/HIV/SSH/AMDS

AMDS team has become a part of System Strengthening and HIV (SSH) unit of HIV department (HIV/SSH/AMDS). The purpose of this change is to bring synergies in the area of health system strengthening and links to the human resource for health and health financing agenda.

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www.who.int/hiv/amds