Update on the Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (IPAC) for 4th WHO PDVAC Meeting
Geneva, Switzerland

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IPAC - Overview

❖ Mandate *(new TORs established in May 2017)*

– to provide independent and expert advice to the WHO/IVB Director on how to **strengthen immunization service delivery and programme management** to:
  1. Leverage **innovative** approaches and technologies that can maximize reach and equitable access to vaccines up to the last mile, and to
  2. Optimize operational efficiency and management of vaccination programmes at **country level**.

– **Main focus**: Guidance documents & tools used in national immunization programs
  • Addressing questions of feasibility and acceptability
  • No executive, regulatory, or decision-making function on behalf of WHO

❖ Members & Operations

– 11 core members, including chair: Dr Chris Morgan
– Working Groups: Delivery Technologies + Controlled Temperature Chain
– Annual meetings (Q1) + Teleconferences + Online Discussion Group + Bulletins
IPAC February 2017 Meeting – Agenda Highlights
(Meeting report available on IPAC page of IVB website)

I. Immunization Supply Chain & Logistics
   - Update on progress since 2013 ‘call to action’
   - Update on Cold Chain Equipment Optimisation Platform
   - Development of a Data Reference Manual

II. Global Supply, Shortages and Implementation Solutions
    - Global vaccine shortages, use of fractional doses, home-based records shortages

III. Immunization in the Second Year of Life (2YL)
     - Update on case studies and UNICEF 2YL costing tool
     - Discussion and endorsement of WHO 2YL Guidance

IV. Controlled Temperature Chain (CTC)
    - Update from CTC Working Group
    - Discussion and endorsement of priority vaccines and other WG outcomes

V. Delivery Technology (DT)
   - Review of measles/rubella (MR) micro-array patch (MAP) development
   - Other DT WG progress, Vaccine Technology Impact Assessment (VTIA) economic modelling tool

VI. Immunization Advisory Committee updates
IPAC – Working Groups

Controlled Temperature Chain (CTC)

Problem:
Need to increase & prioritise products licensed for use in CTC; to improve communications; and to improve country-level uptake.

Solutions currently under review:
- Identification of 4 priority vaccines:
  1) HPV  
  2) OCV  
  3) TT / TD  
  4) HepB Birthdose  
- Development of a roadmap, improved partner engagement, and other WG outputs.

Purpose:
Focus efforts where potential is highest, clarify needs for progress toward GVAP goals for thermostable vaccines, characterise CTC role in improving equitable coverage.
**IPAC – Working Groups**

**Controlled Temperature Chain (CTC)**

**Status:**
Four priority vaccines endorsed, progress commended, road-map to be brought back to IPAC mid-year. Feedback included:

- Importance of improved communications, with increased engagement from Gavi for boosting incentives to industry,
- Leverage opportunities for varied implementation evidence across the 4 vaccines,
- Generate evidence on economic and logistical benefits,
- Maintain current CTC definition for a period to allow work-stream to focus.
IPAC – Working Groups
Delivery Technology (DT)

Problem:
Need for technological innovation and stakeholder collaboration to develop tools and products of immunization delivery, focused on improving equitable access for the “last mile”.

Solutions currently under review:
DT Working Group (co-chaired by WHO and PATH) actions to:

- Develop a target product profile (TPP) for measles-rubella microarray patch (MAP),
- Enable broad participation across public and private stakeholders,
- Map and review the variety of new delivery technologies (eg jet injectors, blow-fill-seal technologies, integrated reconstitution and administration devices),
- Provide feedback to manufacturers, developers, and immunization partners through TPPs, a vacc. technology prioritization framework, PATH’s VTIA tool, and other means, including the GVAP Platform Delivery Technology report.
Purpose:
Maximize the impact of immunization products for public sector use, including stand-alone delivery technologies, novel primary containers, combination vaccine/device products and other alternative delivery technologies.

Status:
MR MAP TPP endorsed (with some conditions).
General feedback included
✓ managing the broad scope,
✓ ensuring important beneficial links to PDVAC,
✓ solicitation of end-user needs,
✓ more holistic (‘total system’) assessments, and
✓ clearer timescales for the WG’s different technology areas in terms of program availability and use.
Continuing priorities for IPAC in 2017 & 2018

1. Innovations for equitable immunization coverage
   - CTC
   - Delivery Technologies incl. programmatic aspects & health worker training
   - Total Systems Effectiveness
   - Needles/Syringe practices

2. Immunization Service Delivery and Programme Management
   - Integrated health services and integrated programme management
   - Second+ Year of Life
   - Missed Opportunities for vaccination
   - Vaccine Shortages
   - Strengthening Community Engagement/Demand
   - Implementation (framework for vaccine policy recommendations)
   - Equity & Coverage
THANK YOU

For more information: http://www.who.int/immunization/programmes_systems/policies_strategies/ipac/en/

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