



Dear Members of the HTAi Interest Group on Assessment of Vaccination Programs (AVP)

On behalf of the HTAi AVP Interest Group Chair, Professor Monder Toumi, I am pleased to send you our first quarterly bulletin, sharing news items from our members.

HTAi Interest Group on Assessment of Vaccination Programs – November 2016 ebuletin

POLICY UPDATES

Addressing EU challenges in vaccination

From Christelle Saint Sardos, Vaccines Europe, HTA Lead

The Informal Meeting of Health Ministers held early October in Bratislava discussed the topic of "Specific Challenges in Vaccination". This included discussion of topics related to antimicrobial resistance, vaccine hesitancy and scarcity/shortage of vaccine supply. Reference was made to the European Council conclusions (adopted in 2014) that vaccination is an effective tool in public health. This called on Member States and the European Commission to agree measures to strengthen national immunization programmes. It is recognised that along with ECDC, EMA and WHO, there is a need to investigate methods on improvement of vaccination coverage, promotion of immunization programs and to provide directions and tools to help Member States to facilitate communication strategies in the area of vaccination, focused also on sceptics and opponents of vaccination [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XG1206\(01\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XG1206(01)&from=EN)

EU Commission public consultation on strengthening EU cooperation on HTA

From Christelle Saint Sardos, Vaccines Europe, HTA Lead

On 21 October 2016, the European Commission launched its public consultation on strengthening EU cooperation on Health Technology Assessment (HTA). The consultation is open until 13 January 2017 and can be accessed online at

http://ec.europa.eu/health/technology_assessment/consultations/cooperation_hta_en.htm.

Stakeholders' positions expressed during the public consultation, as well as the results of three ongoing studies (Impact analysis of policy options for Strengthened EU cooperation on HTA; Mapping of HTA national organisations, programmes and processes; Mapping of HTA methodologies), will inform the 2017 Commission initiative on HTA. More details on the Commission plans are included in their inception impact assessment (available online http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/roadmaps/docs/2016_sante_144_health_technology_assessments_en.pdf).

Action >>> The HTAi Interest Group on Assessment of Vaccination Programs will submit a response to this consultation. So please send Karen Facey (k.facey@btinternet.com) your comments by 31 December so that we can collate them and create a joint response.



Expanded Access to Quality Medicines and Vaccines is Critical to Achieving Universal Health

Pan American Health Organization

Expanding access to quality medicines and health technologies, including vaccines, is critical if countries are to advance toward universal health, experts from Nicaragua, Russia and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) said during the III International Nicaragua-Russia Congress, which took place last week in Managua, Nicaragua.

The meeting was convened to facilitate the exchange of scientific knowledge and to build capacity in three key areas: vaccine production, the use of herbal medicines in health care, and arboviral diseases (including Zika, dengue, and chikungunya). The meeting was organized as part of a cooperation initiative for technology transfer between Russia and Nicaragua, which also included the construction of a new vaccine production plant that opened in Managua on the same day as the conference (Oct. 22). [Read more.](#)

Expanded funding for vaccines in New Zealand

From James Harris, Manager, Health Economics, Pharmac, New Zealand

In June 2016, PHARMAC recommended funding of universal HPV vaccine, varicella vaccine, and to change the pneumococcal vaccine listing ([subject to consultation](#)). These proposals were based on HTA assessments that used the same evaluation methods and decision processes as other medicines – a major step in PHARMAC integrating its decision making about vaccines and medicines.

<https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/news/media-2016-07-28-vaccines/>

From 1 January 2017:

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine
 - Funded access would be widened to include males and females aged 26 years old and under.
 - A two-dose regimen would be funded rather than a three-dose regimen for those males and females aged 14 and under. This would be subject to Medsafe approval of the two-dose regimen.
 - A three-dose schedule for males and females aged 15-26 years.
 - The 4 valent (Gardasil) HPV vaccine would be replaced with the 9 valent (Gardasil 9) vaccine.
 - Females who have started a three-dose regimen of Gardasil would be able to complete their remaining doses in 2017.

From 1 July 2017:

- Varicella vaccine
 - Funded access would be widened to include one dose for primary vaccination in children at 15 months old and a catch up in general practice of one dose for unvaccinated children aged 11 years, who have not previously been vaccinated against varicella or contracted chickenpox.
 - Funding criteria for high risk patients would remain unchanged.
- Pneumococcal conjugated vaccine (PCV)



- The 13 valent (Prevenar 13) pneumococcal vaccine would be replaced with the 10 valent (Synflorix) PCV10 vaccine on the National Immunisation Schedule.
 - Prevenar 13 would remain available for high risk patients only.
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RESEARCH

From Christelle Saint Sardos

A study on vaccination confidence has been published in EBioMedicine. The State of Vaccine Confidence study surveyed nearly 66,000 individuals across 67 countries, investigating confidence in vaccine safety and effectiveness, as well as perceptions of vaccine importance and compatibility with religious beliefs . The analysis was conducted in collaboration with Imperial College London and the National University of Singapore, and the data was collected by WIN/Gallup International Association. It concludes that confidence in vaccine safety is less positive, particularly in the European region which has seven of the ten least confident countries, with 41% of respondents in France reporting that they disagree that vaccines are safe:<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S235239641630398X>

The results of this study have been reported in different newspapers:

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2016-09/Isch-erm090716.php

From Karen Facey, Coordinator

The Office of Health Economics (OHE) has published a report entitled 'Just Published: Systematic Review of PRO Use in Paediatric Populations with Vaccine-Preventable Infectious Diseases'

<https://www.ohe.org/node/1670>

POSITIONS OF INTEREST

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health has decided to open a new faculty position in the field of vaccines. The position description is attached and the process involves an international search. They are searching for someone at the Assistant (usually someone up to 6 years out of training whose independent funding and leadership in scholarship is beginning to emerge) or Associate Professor level (usually someone in mid-career phase, demonstrating independence of funding and substantial scholarship). The committee will be accepting applications until December 15th.

HTAi INTEREST GROUP



Health Technology Assessment international

An International Society for the Promotion of Health Technology Assessment

The Steering Committee of the Interest Group on AVG has met for the first time. Terms of Reference for the group have been drafted and will be uploaded to the website soon. A workplan is being developed and panel and abstracts for sessions at HTAi 2017 are being prepared. More news about these in the next ebulletin, where we'll be looking for members of the Interest Group to sign up for working groups.

Please note that in future this listserv will be restricted to members of HTAi, so **please renew your HTAi membership at this link if you've let it lapse.**

<http://www.htai.org/login-area/membership-management/renew-your-membership.html>

If you have items of news for this ebulletin, please send them to Karen.