

## Global Pharmacovigilance

### The Safety of COVID-19 Vaccination in Children/Adolescents in LMICs Working Group Meeting: Coordinator Meeting

Minutes of the above meeting held on **Tues 31<sup>st</sup> May**, 10.00 UTC (11.00am BST) via Zoom.

#### Present

Ryan Walker, Sahithi Bogireddy, Abdourahamane Diallo, Ephraim Senkyire

*Note: All working-group members who have expressed an interest in a co-ordinating role in this group were invited*

#### Meeting Report

##### 1 Discussion

###### **Group Merge**

R.Walker identified that two of GPV's working groups, namely this group (Children/Adolescents) and another group (Pregnancy) discussed many overlapping themes in their initial meetings (communications/awareness of vaccination safety in these groups). There is also a large overlap in membership between the two groups. It was proposed that the two groups merge to create an overarching 'Safety of COVID-19 Vaccination in Children and Pregnancy' group.

This proposal has been put to the Pregnancy working group in their meeting a day prior, and that group agreed that the two groups could be merged, following agreement from members of the Child/Adolescent group.

It was agreed amongst the group that it would be beneficial to merge the two working groups. It was suggested that the theme of 'communication' may also provide a better focus for the group's child/adolescent activities, as this may allow for further safety related problems to be identified and addressed through discussion with healthcare workers and other pharmacovigilance stakeholders.

###### **Elaborating on communication as a topic for focus**

It was suggested that good face-to-face communication is key to building trust between healthcare professionals and the general public in relation to vaccine safety. A good understanding of a cultural factors is also necessary when communicating scientific information to the general public.

### **Additional Comments**

It was suggested that a lack of public trust in healthcare professionals and systems in LMICs may be due to a lack of outreach programs. Outreach programmes designed to support immunisation must be sustainable, and continue their activities outside of pandemics and epidemics to support routine vaccinations.

It was highlighted that ideally, any outputs/interventions from this group could be adapted for non-COVID vaccination programmes.

## **2 Next Steps**

A proposal raised in the pregnancy working group meeting, to arrange a series of online training sessions, webinars, workshops or similar, given by experts or those with experience in pharmacovigilance communications in LMICs, and with particular consideration of vaccination in pregnancy/children/adolescents, was shared. It was agreed that a similar target would be a good plan for this working group. It was suggested that these sessions may be particularly valuable for students in the working group, and their involvement may be important.

It was acknowledged that a KAP analysis may be useful to identify further barriers in this area. Initial activities may include the drafting of a KAP analysis template and questionnaires. Given the wide geographic range of these working groups it could be possible to run a multinational KAP study.

Meeting attendees were encouraged to share relevant articles and resources with the rest of the group.

## **3 Set Action Points for Next Meeting**

- Identify and approach individuals with relevant experience who may be interested in giving presentations on vaccine safety communication. Those with knowledge of safety communication relating to childhood and adolescent vaccination should be a priority. A. Diallo has kindly offered to provide one of these presentations.
- To develop a draft schedule for the proposed videos to share with potential speakers.
- Create an online space on Global Pharmacovigilance for group information
- R. Walker to inform all members of this group (Child/Adolescent) and all members of the Pregnancy group about the intention to merge the two groups.
- R. Walker to disseminate meeting minutes to all working group members and welcome further involvement in the coordinating group.

4 Agree date and time of the next meeting

The next virtual meeting will be held in approximately one month's time (w/c 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022, exact date to be decided closer to the time).