

Global Pharmacovigilance

The Safety of COVID-19 Vaccination in Children and Pregnancy in LMICs Working Group Meeting

Minutes of the above meeting held on **Weds 27th July**, 10.00 UTC (11.00am BST) via Zoom.

Present

Ryan Walker (Chair), Okechi Nzedibe, Mercury Shitindo, Ramesh Bhandari, Shivangi Srivastava, Akinmade Adepoju, Sahithi Bogireddy, Maya Khan, Noon Ibrahim, Annastacia Cosmus, Ephraim Senkyire, Dorothy Aywak

Attendee list only includes attendees that were present for a minimum 50% of the allotted meeting time (30 mins)

Agenda

1 Discussion

The discussions of the meeting focussed on taking forward this group's plans to host a series of training webinars/videos on COVID-19 vaccination in children and pregnancy in LMICs. Proposed topics for these videos can be found at the end of this document.

Refining the List of Ideas for Training Videos

The group will work to refine the proposed list of video topics. This will need to involve consideration of video topic order (series structure) and investigation of existing training resources related to the proposed topics, to avoid any duplication of efforts.

It was suggested that a questionnaire be developed to assess group members' knowledge of the relevant topics pre- and post- webinar series development. This will be explored in tandem to the webinar scheduling.

It was identified that some of the proposed video topics may now be outdated and/or irrelevant. It is important to ensure that the videos will be relevant to the current phase of the pandemic and to LMICs.

Forming a Project Team

It was agreed that interested members of the working group will be invited to join a 'project team', which will lead the work on the webinar series and report their efforts to the wider group.

It was acknowledged that Email is not the most engaging method of generating group discussion between meetings, and that more regular member interaction would be valuable. Additional team communication channels, including WhatsApp and LinkedIn were discussed. It was agreed to form a WhatsApp group for the discussions of the project team.

It was agreed that project team work will involve the use of shared virtual documents (e.g. Google Docs) that allow group collaboration and input. Clear Objectives and actionable items assigned to specific members will be shared to guide project team activities.

Paediatric COVID-19 Immunisation Policy Map

In an earlier meeting of the former 'Safety of COVID-19 Vaccination in Children/Adolescents in LMICs Working Group', it was raised that it would be valuable to understand the different national policies on childhood COVID-19 Immunisation. It was proposed that an online resource be developed on Global Pharmacovigilance to map the varying international policies.

A map-based resource will be created, that will share the following information for each country:

- The ages ranges of under 18s being immunised
- The vaccines approved for COVID-19 immunisation in under-18s
- Hyperlinks to national childhood vaccination policies, if available.

Group members will be invited to submit the above information relevant to their country and/or region, to populate the resource with information.

Systematic Review

It was raised as to whether there are any group members with expertise in systematic reviews and meta-analyses. This is not currently known, although it is likely. A systematic review of the safety of COVID-19 immunisation in LMICs may be an interesting project for this group in the future. There is the potential for collaboration on this project with the 'Analysis of COVID-19 Vaccination Safety Data in LMICs Working Group'.

2 Set Action Points for Next Meeting

- **R. Walker** to disseminate meeting minutes
- **R. Walker** to facilitate formation of webinar series project team
- **Webinar Series Project Team** to refine list of webinar topic proposals, set series timeline, and discuss potential speakers.

3 Agree date and time of the next meeting

This was not discussed at the meeting, however the next group meeting will be in approximately one month's time (w/c 29th Aug 2022, exact date to be decided closer to the time).

Appendix: Proposed Training/Informational Session Topics

<p>Why receive the COVID-19 Vaccination? What are the benefits of vaccination? Why is it important for those who are not yet vaccinated to get vaccinated? Why is it important to receive all doses of the vaccine?</p>
<p>COVID-19 Vaccination Misinformation: Myths, Misconceptions and Fake News A session on common topics of misinformation relating to COVID-19 vaccination, and how these can be challenged.</p>
<p>Adverse Effects of COVID-19 Vaccines: A Focus on LMICs A session on adverse effects of COVID-19 vaccination specific to adverse events detected in LMICs.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnancy: What are the Facts? A session on the uptake, risk/benefit, safety, and special considerations of COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Vaccination in Children/Adolescents: What are the Facts? A session on the uptake, risk/benefit, safety, and special considerations of COVID-19 vaccination in Children/Adolescents.</p>
<p>Identifying Trusted Vaccine Information A session on how to identify reliable sources of vaccine information, and an overview of specific source examples.</p>
<p>Addressing Vaccine Safety Misinformation A session on how to identify and tackle vaccine safety misinformation</p>
<p>Effective use of Social Media in Vaccine Safety Communication A session on the value of social media in science/vaccine communication, the potential risks and pit falls, and how to use social media effectively to share information and tackle misinformation.</p>
<p>The Importance of Good Vaccine Safety Communication A session on why good safety communication is important, which could also discuss the impact of bad communication.</p>
<p>Measuring Results of Improved Communications A session on assessing the impact of communication strategies</p>
<p>Identifying Loopholes in Communication Programmes A session on identifying gaps in communications strategies, including which groups aren't being reached, and what further channels can be harnessed.</p>
<p>Experience Session: Communicating Vaccine safety Issues. A session from a community member (e.g. researcher, HCP, regulator) on their experience of vaccine safety information communication during the pandemic, and ideally with a focus on children and pregnancy.</p>

Vaccine Safety Communications for Healthcare Officials

A session aimed towards those working in Ministries of Health.

Communication Strategies for Adolescent Vaccination

A session on how to tailor communication strategies towards adolescents.

Tailoring Scientific Communication to the General Public

A session on how to tailor scientific communication, specifically vaccine safety communication, to the general public, with a particular focus on local languages, literacy levels, and local culture.