

Jordan Food and Drug Administration and Health Action International

Workshop at the Mövenpick Hotel, Dead Sea, Jordan
December 2007 5 - 4

Towards equitable and affordable medicine prices policies in Jordan

Objectives of the workshop

- Disseminate the findings and recommendations of the Jordan price survey.
- Identify policies and programmes to improve, in particular, availability of medicines in the public sector and prices in the private sector.
- Establish a task force to:
 - further develop appropriate pricing policies and programmes;
 - develop a time-bound implementation plan and reporting mechanism, and oversee implementation of the plan; and
 - establish a monitoring system to regularly assess the impact of policy and programme changes on the price, availability and affordability of medicines.

Key findings of the Jordan price survey

- The procurement agency purchases both generic and originator brand medicines. Savings could be made if only generics were purchased.
- Public sector patient prices for generics were about the same as procurement prices, indicating very low or no mark-ups in the public sector distribution chain.
- Median availability of generics in the public sector was only 28%, indicating that many patients would have to purchase medicines in the private sector.
- Generic medicines in private pharmacies were priced about 10 times higher than in the public sector, and 10 times higher than international reference prices. Originator brands were twice the price of generics in private pharmacies.
- Some treatments, particularly for chronic diseases, are not affordable. The lowest paid unskilled government worker would need 2 days wages to purchase diclofenac to treat arthritis and 4.6 days' wages to treat an ulcer with ranitidine, when lowest priced generics are purchased from private pharmacies. If originator brands are prescribed/dispensed, costs escalate to 4.6 and 8.6 days' wages respectively. Treatment of an ulcer with originator brand omeprazole would cost 19.9 days' wages.
- In the private sector, median availability of originator brand and generic medicines was 60% and 80%, respectively.
- Price components were not assessed in the field but, based on regulated mark-ups, cumulative mark-ups total about 50-60% above the manufacturer's selling price.

Tuesday 4 December 2007

Chair: Ms. Margaret Ewen, WHO/HAI Pricing Project Coordinator
Health Action International

09:00 Welcome and objectives of the workshop
Ph. Mohammed Bin Shahna, Technical Officer, WHO/ EMRO

Professor Dr Mohammad Rawashdeh, DG/ JFDA
Ph. Margaret Ewen, Pricing Project Coordinator, HAI

09:20 Opening Speech

09:35 Results of the Jordan medicine price and availability survey
Ph. Rania Bader, WHO/HAI Pricing Project Consultant, Jordan

10:00 Results of price surveys across the Eastern Mediterranean Region
Ph. Mohammed Bin Shahna, Technical Officer, WHO/ EMRO

10:30 *Coffee Break*

11:00 **Panel 1: Procurement and availability of medicines
in the public sector**

*Chair: Dr Taher Abu Al Samen, Director General,
High Health Council / MoH*

Panel:

- Ph. Maisa Al Saket, Director General, Drug Procurement Administration – Strategies to improve efficiency in medicine procurement
- Ph. Wa'el Inmair , Director Assistant, Central Medical Supply Store – Strategies to strengthen the distribution system to improve the availability of medicines
- Dr Ahmed Al Barmawi, Director General, Health Insurance Administration – Strategies to overcome over-dispensing and multiple dispensing to improve medicine availability

Discussion

12:30 *Lunch*

13:30 Current pricing policies in Jordan
Ms. Samia Saad, independent consultant

14:00 **Panel 2: Medicine price regulation and price setting in the private sector**

Chair: Dr Ali Al Qaisi, Vice President, Al Balqa'a University

Panel:

- Ph. Hiam Dabbas, RDU, JFDA – Impact of change on the pricing structure of medicines
- Ph. Rana Abu Failat, Pricing Department, JFDA - Ensuring lower medicine prices through the revised pricing criteria
- Dr Richard Laing, WHO/HAI Pricing Project Coordinator, Medicine Policy and Standards, WHO Geneva – International approaches to lowering prices

Discussion

15:30 *Coffee Break*

16:00 **Panel 3: The impact of intellectual property rights and trade agreements on access to affordable medicines**

Chair: Dr Tim Reed, Director-Health Action International

Panel:

- Impact of the US/Jordan Free Trade Agreement on the affordability and availability of medicines from the perspective of:
 - local generic manufacturers: ph. Hanan Sboul
 - consumers: Mr. Rohit Malpani, Oxfam International
- Dr Hiba Zarour, Intellectual Property Council, Jordan - Interpretation of Jordanian Patent Law and JUSFTA to improve access to medicines

Discussion

17:15 Close of day one

Wednesday 5 December 2007

Chair: Dr Fatina Al Halawani, Chief of Party PHRplus

09:00 **Panel 4: Improving treatment affordability through pro-generics policies and programmes**

Chair: Dr Richard Laing, WHO Geneva

Panel:

- Dr Mohammad Rawashdeh, DG, JFDA - Strategies to aid market entry and competition of generics
- Ph. Laila Jarrar JFDA - Strategies to increase the use of low priced quality generics
- Strategies to improve the acceptance and use of generics from the perspective of:
 - physicians: Dr Zuhair Abu Fares, Physician Professional Association
 - pharmacists: Dr Taher Shakhashir, Jordan Pharmacy Association
 - consumers: Dr. Abdel Fattah Al Kilani, Consumer Protection Association

10:15 *Coffee Break*

10:45 Discussion on pro-generics policies and programmes

11:40 Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA)
Mr. Saul Walker Health Advisor, United Kingdom Department for International Development

12:00 National experiences of regular price monitoring
Ph. Klara Tisocki, WHO/HAI Pricing Project Consultant (EU Consultant, Philippines)

12:20 Afternoon working group activity
Ph. Rania Bader, WHO/HAI Pricing Project Consultant.

12:30 *Lunch*

- 13:30 Working Groups:
Gp.1 Medicine procurement and availability in the public sector
Gp.2 Medicine price regulation and price setting in the private sector
Gp.3 Intellectual property rights and trade agreements
Gp.4 Pro-generics policies and programmes
Gp.5 Establishing a price monitoring system in Jordan
- 15:00 *Coffee Break*
- 15:30 Plenary session: report back from each working group
- 16:45 Establishment of a task force to develop effective pricing policies and programmes, oversee their implementation, and monitor their impact
Dr Mohammed Rawashdeh, Director General, JFDA
- 17:20 Closing comments:
Ph. Marg Ewen HAI, Dr Hashim Ali El Zein El Mousaad WR, WHO/ EMRO,
Ph. Rania Bader, WHO/HAI Pricing Project Consultant