

Webster

Technical Expert Group (TEG) on Injection Safety in India: Minutes of the meeting

Meeting date and time: 13 July 2016; 10:30 am to 11:30 am

Venue: Committee Room, First Floor, *Nirman Bhawan*,
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India
New Delhi

A meeting of Technical Expert Group on Injection Safety in India was held on 13th July 2016 under Chairmanship of Sh. BP Sharma, Secretary (Health & Family Welfare), Govt of India. The list of expert members who attended the meeting is given in the Annexure-1. The objective of this meeting was to seek expert advice on promotion of Injection Safety in India and to consider adoption of WHO's guideline on Safety Engineered Syringes, 2015 in therapeutic care settings. The summary of the discussion and action points are given below:

Summary of the discussions

1. The meeting started with opening remarks of Secretary (H&FW), Govt of India. He highlighted the importance of improving injection safety and healthcare waste management in India and re-iterated that improving the quality of care and making healthcare safer in India is a top priority of the Government.
2. Dr Neeraj Dhingra, DDG (TI), NACO and Member Secretary of TEG made a presentation on situation of injection safety and healthcare waste management in India.
3. Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya, National Professional Officer- Universal Health Coverage and Focal Person- Injection Safety, WHO Country Office for India made a presentation on WHO 2015 Guidelines on Safety Engineered Syringes.
4. Dr Lahariya also presented WHO's India Injection safety implementation project to the TEG. He shared that as part of release of these guideline, WHO is conducting a global campaign/project and has selected three countries (India, Egypt and Uganda) for the project. He shared specific components of the implementation project which aims to make injections safe in India. The presentation highlighted WHO's proposed support to the Union Government of India and three identified Indian states, for the process of adoption of safety engineered syringes. It was proposed that the State for project could be selected/suggested by TEG, based upon burden of unsafe injections and other relevant considerations.
5. Dr. Pradeep Halder, Deputy Commissioner (Imm-I/UIP), MoHFW, Government of India shared India's experience on Auto Disable Syringes being used in the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) since 2005. He emphasized that introduction of AD syringes has made immunization service delivery safe and led to reduced blunt injuries; reduced local abscesses ; decrease in blood borne diseases, etc. Safe syringe adoption in public health program has contributed to possibly increased coverage and that large proportion (nearly 90% of all) of immunization is done in public sector. His presentation also discussed that use of AD syringes in public health program led to the reduction of price of AD syringes as well.

6. Recommendations and action points

Recommendation 1: To write to Medical and Nursing Councils of India to incorporate the safe injection guideline in the curriculum and train medical/nursing students. Model Injection Centres to be established in each Medical College/ Nursing College.

Action: DGHS/ JS (ARR)

Recommendation 2: Conduct a rapid nationwide assessment of injection uses and practices and healthcare waste management practices in India.

The TEG members took a note of the fact that the last nationwide data on injection practices in India was available for the year 2002-05 and felt that there is a need for more recent data. It was proposed that a rapid nation-wide assessment of injection uses (by type of syringes being used, across the sectors) and Health Care Waste Management (HCWM) practices be conducted. TEG requested WHO to provide necessary technical support and submit a report to MoHFW after the assessment.

Action: WHO to coordinate with MoHFW for planning and conducting this assessment.

Recommendation 3: WHO's Injection safety implementation project to be conducted in Punjab state of India

TEG discussed, welcomed and supported the need for the WHO's India injection Safety implementation project which would look into the details of injection safety and waste management guidelines in few states. Punjab state representative volunteered to include Punjab as one of the states for the WHO project. WHO may identify one or two states more for such assessments.

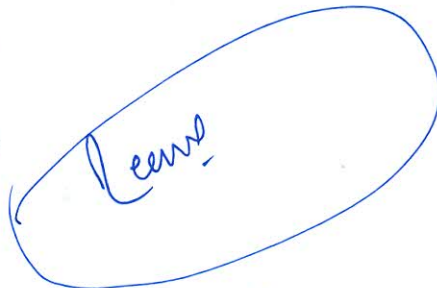
Action: WHO and the concerned states

Recommendations 4: Call a meeting with the licensed syringe manufacturers in India

TEG recommended that to understand the production capacity, time requirement for transition to Safe Injection Syringes, cost landscape and patent issues, etc. A meeting may be called with the manufacturers to understand these issues.

Action: DGHS in coordination with AS (KBA)

7. Meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the chair



Annexure 1

List of participants

1. Shri BP Sharma, Secretary (H&FW), Government of India and Chairperson
2. Dr. Jagdish Prasad, Director General of Health Services, MoHFW, Govt of India
3. Shri NS Kang, Additional Secretary (CGHS) & DG (NACO), MoHFW
4. Shri KB Agarwal, Additional Secretary, MoHFW, Govt of India
5. Dr. Inder Prakash, DDG (PH), DGHS, MoHFW, Govt of India
6. Dr. Neeraj Dhingra, Deputy Director General (TI), NACO, MoHFW, New Delhi
7. Dr Prakin Suchaxaya, Coordinator Health Programs, WHO Country Office India, New Delhi
8. Nicole Seguy, Team Leader- Communicable Diseases, WHO Country Office India, New Delhi
9. Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya, National Professional Officer - Universal health Coverage and Focal Point- Injection Safety, WHO Country Office India, New Delhi
10. Dr. BB Rewari, NPO- ART, WHO Country Office India, New Delhi
11. Dr. Sunil Gupta, Additional Director, NCDC, MoHFW, New Delhi
12. Prof. Jayanta K. Das, Director, National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, New Delhi
13. Mr Hussan Lal, Project Director, Punjab State AIDS Control Society, and Mission Director State Health Mission, Govt of Punjab, Chandigarh
14. Dr. NK Arora, Executive Director, The INCLIN Trust International, New Delhi
15. Dr. DK Sharma, Medical Superintendent, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
16. Dr. S. Eswara Reddy, Joint Drugs Controller (I), DGHS, MoHFW,
17. Dr. Pradeep Halder, Deputy Commissioner (Imm-I/UIP), MoHFW,
18. Dr. AK Gadpayle, Medical Superintendent, Ram Mnohal Lohiya Hospital, New Delhi
19. Dr. Ekta Gupta, Institute of Liver & Biliary Sciences, New Delhi
20. Dr. Anil K. Rai, Medical Superintendent, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi
21. Shri J Chandra Babu, Sr. Envi. Engineer, Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment and Forest, PCB, New Delhi
22. Dr Arun Kumar Gupta, Deputy Medical Commissioner, Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), New Delhi
23. Dr Rajni Gand, Dept of Microbiology, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi
24. Dr. TK Joshi, Indian Society Occupational Health, Dehradun
25. Ms Sophia Khumukcham, Project Officer- IDU, NACO, New Delhi