

Roundtable Session 2 – Table 12: Supply Issues of New Medicines – Focus on Equitable Access in Third World Countries

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Abstract

Equitable access in third world countries faces many challenges. This roundtable will facilitate open discussion on some of the challenges and potential solutions.

- In many of these countries, the **cold chain is limited or unreliable**. Given many of the new medicines are biologics requiring cold chain, what can be done to any new developments to negate the need for cold chain?

- The **per capita income is less than \$4K per year** (LIC's<\$1K; LMIC's<\$4K) and patients pay out of pocket for their medicines. What can be done to reduce the costs in development, production and or delivery?

- The **Healthcare System is underdeveloped and poorly resourced**. What can be done to simplify the treatment of patients i.e. simple dosage, primary care delivery, easy diagnoses, easy delivery to patients?

- **Regulatory systems are underdeveloped and poorly resourced**. What can be done to streamline regulatory processes, approvals.

- COVID has highlighted the need for these countries to be **more prepared and self-sufficient in manufacturing**. What can be done to diversify supply chain and build resilience in these regions.

Notes:

Pharma companies also can improve access by:

- Equitable access through company donations and offering treatments at cost where needed
- Offering easier administration options (SubQ vs IV as an example), moving to devices where possible (pen) or even patches for administration. Strips with drug (like Listerine breath strips) was an interesting option that was discussed
- Having treatments that require less frequent dosing

- Improving storage requirements (room temp vs 5C vs -20C vs -70C). The COVID vaccine example was brought up. The requirement for -70C and -20C storage made it difficult to reach certain regions that did not have this capability. This could be enabled by more investment in robust formulations
- Licensing products to generic/biosimilar companies to support the rest of the world supply needs

Countries can improve access by:

- Centralized storage within a country
- Centralized dose preparation
- More uniform regulations from countries to allow for more streamlined approval around the world

Companies can improve access by:

Syringe Manufacturers as an example-

- Better off the shelf options for novel treatments
- Investing in supply chain to eliminate supply issues that were encountered during the COVID19 pandemic
- Leading industry consortium on improving product offerings that meet the need of the customer and enable shortened development timelines
- CCIT studies for frozen syringes

Shipping suppliers-

- Alternatives to dry ice to give more flexibility
- Options where chemical reactions in the shippers could supply the required temperature that could be tailored to a given product