

Capacity Statement

Who we are

The Chlorhexidine Working Group (CWG) is an international collaboration of organizations committed to the use of 7.1% chlorhexidine digluconate (delivering 4% chlorhexidine) for umbilical cord care through advocacy and technical assistance. We believe that chlorhexidine for umbilical cord care should be implemented as an important piece of a comprehensive national newborn strategy designed to improve newborn health. In 2013, the CWG advanced the use of chlorhexidine for umbilical cord care in 15 countries in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

What we do

Development and support of an enabling policy environment through country-level advocacy and engagement

- Coordination and implementation of technical meetings with key stakeholders/policymakers.
- Dissemination of global policy and creation of guidance documents to support policy alignment at the country level.
- Development of shared learning opportunities among countries.

Support to country-led initiatives to pilot and scale 7.1% chlorhexidine digluconate for umbilical cord care

- Market research to determine:
 - Potential challenges and opportunities associated with uptake of chlorhexidine for umbilical cord care.
 - Current practices around umbilical cord care and potential value propositions for 7.1% chlorhexidine digluconate.
 - Avenues for procurement and product pricing.
- Market size estimation and demand projection.
- Identification of user preference for liquid or gel product formulation.
- Cost analysis to assist countries with decision-making around a product supply strategy, such as cost comparison for acquiring gel product format versus liquid product format.
- Technical assistance to design and implement pilot programs, including capacity development for in-country teams.
- Navigating programmatic decisions such as single-day or multiple-day application, facility or home setting, etc.

Our Approach

The Chlorhexidine Working Group (CWG) aims to achieve the maximum sustainable benefit for public health by leveraging the expertise of its members and partners in areas such as product development, manufacturing, supply chain, policy, regulatory, program design and implementation, quality assurance, training, and monitoring and evaluation. Our extensive global reach and the collective expertise of the CWG members and their institutions allow us to offer a broad range of technical assistance to countries which is tailored to meet each country's needs and is guided by the country itself.



Photo: PATH/Mutsumi Metzler
Mother and newborn in Bangladesh

- Technical assistance to country-led initiatives to develop multiyear operational plans and budgets for 7.1% chlorhexidine digluconate.
- Sample tools for program launch including training materials, information, education and communication materials, job aids, and sample scale-up plans.

Support to country-led initiatives to manufacture 7.1% chlorhexidine digluconate for umbilical cord care

- Technical assistance to determine an optimal supply-side strategy.
- Manufacturing landscape analysis.
- Audits of selected good manufacturing practices-compliant local or regional manufacturers to establish production for 7.1% chlorhexidine digluconate.
- Assistance to selected manufacturers to produce quality 7.1% chlorhexidine digluconate, from acquisition of raw materials to testing of a finished product.

Our Members

- PATH [CWG Secretariat]
- ayzh
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Boston University
- Burnet Institute
- Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia
- Clinton Health Access Initiative
- Drugfield Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (Nigeria)
- Duke University:
 - o Global Health Institute
 - o Center on Globalization, Governance & Competitiveness
- GSK (UK)
- Global Health Action
- Jhpiego
- John Snow, Inc.
- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Lomus Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd. (Nepal)
- Maternal Child Survival Program
- PSI
- Promoting the Quality of Medicines/ United States Pharmacopeia
- Save the Children/Saving Newborn Lives
- Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services/Management Sciences for Health
- United Nations Children's Fund
 - o Programme Division
 - o Supply Division
- United States Agency for International Development
- Universal Corporation Ltd. (Kenya)
- University of Illinois at Chicago School of Nursing
- World Health Organization

On the web

The CWG also maintains a technical resource webpage with numerous resources and tools, including:

- technical brief
- production strategy brief
- market sizing tools
- country guidance for implementation
- research data
- programmatic experience documents from multiple countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

For more information, please contact:

Siobhan Brown at scbrown@path.org

or visit our technical resource webpage at:

<http://www.healthynewbornnetwork.org/page/chlorhexidine-umbilical-cord-care-resource-page>



Photo: CNC Program, Nepal/JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.