

Terms of Reference

Definition

The Chlorhexidine Working Group (CWG) is an international collaboration of organizations committed to advancing the use of 7.1% chlorhexidine digluconate (delivering 4% chlorhexidine) for umbilical cord care through advocacy and technical assistance. Collaborating with various organizations is a key element of the CWG approach.

The CWG aims to achieve the maximum sustainable benefit for public health through 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, and training.

The CWG aims to:

- Increase awareness and use of 7.1% chlorhexidine digluconate for umbilical cord care as part of essential newborn care by policymakers, birth attendants, and families in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.
- Facilitate the establishment of local or regional manufacturing of 7.1% chlorhexidine digluconate.
- Develop and disseminate guidance and tools to strengthen the planning and policy environment for the introduction of 7.1% chlorhexidine digluconate.

Participation and Structure

PATH is the secretariat and convener for the CWG. In this role, PATH leads the CWG to identify, facilitate, and coordinate opportunities for chlorhexidine integration into global, regional, and national platforms as well as builds potential supplier bases for regional manufacturing and distribution. Members include individuals representing:

- PATH [CWG Secretariat]
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- 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
- GSK (UK)
- Global Health Action
- Jhpiego
- John Snow, Inc.
- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Johnson & Johnson (USA)
- Lomus Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd. (Nepal)
- Maternal and Child Survival Program
- Ministry of Health, DRC (Reproductive Health)
- Ministry of Health, Ethiopia (Maternal & Child Health)
- Ministry of Health, Kenya (Child & Adolescent Health)
- Ministry of Health, Liberia (Family Health)
- Ministry of Health, Malawi (Reproductive Health)
- Ministry of Health, Mozambique (Child Health)
- PSI
- Promoting the Quality of Medicines/ United States Pharmacopeia
- Save the Children/Saving Newborn Lives
- SHOPS Plus/ Abt Associates
- Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services/Management Sciences for Health
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United States Agency for International Development
- Universal Corporation Ltd. (Kenya)
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University Research Co., LLC | Center for Human Services
- World Health Organization

Informal subgroups may be created within the CWG when in-depth discussions on specific issues become necessary. These may relate to the provision of country-specific guidance and support to country-led initiatives, support on local/regional manufacturer production and related market analysis, and the development and implementation of advocacy and dissemination strategies. Participation in subgroups is voluntary, and subgroups may be dissolved once issues become no longer pertinent.

Participation in the CWG is open to organizations that are involved, or interested, in the use of 7.1% chlorhexidine digluconate for umbilical cord care. While some participants may be actively involved in implementation of certain activities, the CWG welcomes organizations who want to participate in the CWG on an ad-hoc basis to obtain or provide certain information.

Organizations may contact Siobhan Brown at scbrown@path.org with their name, designee(s), contact information, and phone number. A brief summary of the organizations current and/or planned activities as related to the use of 7.1% chlorhexidine digluconate for umbilical cord care and specific interest in participating on the CWG should also be included.

Expectations to participants:

- Contribute to the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children chlorhexidine work plan development and implementation.
- Implement activities as agreed and report on progress at the country, regional, and global level.
- Participate in scheduled CWG meetings.
- Identify and participate in events at the global, regional, and national levels.
- Provide technical assistance on country plans, guidelines, tools, and documents as requested.
- Contribute to the CWG knowledge management platform and the Healthy Newborn Network chlorhexidine web page as appropriate.

Transparent collaboration:

The CWG maintains a level of transparency in its collaborations amongst all participants. All participants are invited to group meetings and regular teleconferences and are allowed to use the information they obtain through these communications to achieve wider availability, accessibility, and affordability of the product.

Participants in all CWG meetings, including pharmaceutical manufacturers, acknowledge that the information that is exchanged in group meetings, teleconferences, emails, and/or other means of communication, cannot be guaranteed to be kept confidential. Therefore, each CWG member shall, at its own discretion, decide what information it can share with other members and partners, considering its prior and existing agreements with other organizations.

CWG Objectives

Global-level objectives:

- a) In collaboration with the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children, design and implement a strategy for the rollout of chlorhexidine for umbilical cord care.
- b) Through global and country-level advocacy and engagement, develop, and support an enabling policy environment.
- c) Develop and disseminate agreed-upon resources including recommendations, guidelines, advocacy documents, and planning tools through identified platforms and outlets to strengthen the policy environment and planning for introduction of 7.1% chlorhexidine digluconate.
- d) Identify and facilitate opportunities to harmonize efforts across stakeholders; coordinate efforts across CWG participants towards achieving economies of scale and limiting duplication.
- e) Support the integration of chlorhexidine for umbilical cord care as a part of the essential newborn care agenda.
- f) Support global regulatory approval for and establish local and regional manufacturing of 7.1% chlorhexidine digluconate.
- g) Enhance linkages between global and national-level (within select countries) efforts.

Country-level objectives:

- a) Provide guidance to interested countries on how best to operationalize and implement global recommendations.
- b) Contribute to country planning activities and identify/facilitate opportunities to harmonize efforts and leverage resources across stakeholders; coordinate efforts across participants and in-country offices towards achieving economies of scale and limiting duplication.
- c) Provide technical assistance related to chlorhexidine introduction and scale-up. This may include support to formative research, product registration, and program implementation.
- d) Enable and support, or facilitate, a platform for shared learning across countries.
- e) Adequately respond to interests from the field through the identification and provision of relevant country guidance and technical assistance.