



The Oslo Medicines Initiative: Better access to effective, novel, high-priced medicines – a new vision for collaboration between the public and private sectors

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Consultation for Member States and areas

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Discussion document

Introduction

1. WHO/Europe and the Government of Norway, through close collaboration with the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services and the Norwegian Medicines Agency, have jointly launched the Oslo Medicines Initiative. An 18-month programme of work will be undertaken, culminating in a high-level meeting in Oslo in March 2022, after which a new vision for collaboration will be proposed between the public and private sectors for better access to effective, novel, high-priced medicines. This initiative will build on other access-related initiatives that are being undertaken at a global level by WHO and other United Nations agencies, and will collaborate with similar initiatives in other regions. It will advance the implementation of World Health Assembly resolution WHA72.8 on Improving the transparency of markets for medicines, vaccines, and other health products.¹ The accompanying draft Scope and purpose document outlines the Oslo Medicines Initiative in more detail, providing the background, objectives, format, themes, consultation process and expected outcome.
2. This document provides a set of questions for Member States and areas to consider on advancing the Oslo Medicines Initiative and how the substantive recommendations contained in resolution WHA72.8 can be taken forward. The discussion and outcomes from the first informal consultation meeting to be held virtually on 21 January 2021 will form the basis for a second consultation on a draft outcome document to be held later in 2021 (date to be decided).

Objectives of the Oslo Medicines Initiative

3. The objectives of the Initiative are to:
 - a) reflect on the state of the market for effective, novel, high-priced medicines in Europe from diverse stakeholder perspectives;

¹ See https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/329301/A72_R8-en.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.

- b) discuss key issues that are impacting access to effective, novel, high-priced medicines and potential steps to address these in the context of the European Programme of Work, 2020–2025;
- c) exchange experiences on voluntary multi-country/area collaborations as a mechanism to enable collaboration;
- d) continue the dialogue and allow the exchange of experiences to advance the implementation of World Health Assembly resolution WHA72.8 on transparency;
- e) share successful initiatives undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- f) discuss and agree the main components for action to enable a new vision for collaboration and agree on the principles and process; and
- g) identify and define potential future actions to address collaboration challenges.

Themes

4. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the European Programme of Work, 2020–2025, the Oslo Medicines Initiative will ensure a strong focus on equity and leaving no one behind. Access to effective, novel, high-priced medicines will be looked at through the lens of the three themes listed below, reflecting on the innovative collaborations between Member States and areas and the private sector to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - SOLIDARITY – achieving greater solidarity between stakeholders to meet the SDGs and improve access for patients in the WHO European Region.
 - TRANSPARENCY – understanding how transparency can be used to build trust and support access.
 - SUSTAINABILITY – considering how to ensure a sustainable industry and health care systems.

Questions for the consideration of Member States and areas

5. **Scope and purpose of the Oslo Medicines Initiative**
 - a) Do Member States and areas have any comments on the draft Scope and purpose document for the Oslo Medicines Initiative?
6. **Issues affecting access to effective, novel, high-priced medicines and health products, and potential solutions**
 - a) What do Member States and areas see as the major issues affecting access to effective, novel, high-priced medicines?
 - b) What promising actions are Member States and areas undertaking to improve access? Examples could include price negotiation, public-private partnerships, novel financing mechanisms, price volume arrangements, risk sharing, and advance purchase arrangements.
 - c) How can WHO/Europe provide assistance to Member States and areas in their efforts to provide access to the population to effective, novel, high-priced medicines?

7. **SOLIDARITY**

- a) How can existing mechanisms for cooperation and coordination between Member States and areas be strengthened, including joint horizon scanning, procurement and assessments?
- b) How can WHO/Europe continue to support active and meaningful dialogue between stakeholders?

8. **TRANSPARENCY**

- a) What actions can Member States and areas take to further strengthen the implementation of World Health Assembly resolution WHA72.8?
- b) How can WHO/Europe support national governments in the development and implementation of World Health Assembly resolution WHA72.8?

9. **SUSTAINABILITY**

- a) How can Member States and areas contribute to reconciling sustainable pharmaceutical policies and procurement practices with sustainable industry and innovation?
- b) How can WHO/Europe support Member States and areas in this effort with the aim of strengthening effective national governance systems?