

Public Consultation: Successful experiences in competencies development for Pharmaceutical Services based on Primary Health Care (PS/PHC)

Background

The Renewed Primary Health Care proposal presents a different perspective for the development of healthcare systems. It recognizes the current values: right to the highest attainable standard of health, equity and solidarity, the principles of social justice, sustainability, intersectorality, inter alia. It also proposes to adapt the strategy to the context and current mandates, mainly derived from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and address the social determinants of health to achieve the highest level of health.

The initiative on PS/PHC began in late 2008 as part of the activities promoted by PAHO/WHO to strengthen the health systems in the Americas, when an interdisciplinary Regional Working Group on Pharmaceutical Services based on Primary Health Care (WG-PS/PHC), with specialists from several countries belonging to governments, universities, NGOs and PAHO/WHO was established. This WG developed the **Guidelines for the Development of PHC-based Pharmaceutical Services**. The document presents a conceptual framework as a basis for understanding and (re)organizing the elements of PHC-based pharmaceutical services. It is therefore the ideal to be achieved, which may be adapted in each country according to its conditions.

In 2010, this issue was discussed during the Pan American Conference on Pharmaceutical Education (CPEF). The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has been working with WHO for many years on the development of education and practice standards for the pharmacist. The most recent outcome of this partnership was the publication of the updated Good Pharmacy Practices (WHO Technical Report Series, No. 961, 2011), already translated into Spanish. The FIP also developed a draft "Framework for Core Competencies for Pharmacists". FIP and PAHO/WHO also support, since its inception in 1999, the Pharmaceutical Forum of the Americas (FFA), which congregates regional and national pharmaceutical associations and councils from the countries of the Americas, with the goal of strengthening the pharmaceutical practice in America's continent.

In 2011, the FFA with PAHO/WHO and FIP considered as one of the essential needs to identify the competencies required for the development of pharmaceutical services based on PHC and to develop implementation strategies as part of development of the PS/PHC. The initiative may also help to adjust and strengthen the Pharmacy curricula and expand opportunities for life-long learning and continuing education towards this direction. In that regard, in February 2012, a Working Group with representatives from PAHO/WHO, WG PS/PHC, FFA, FIP and CPEF was established for developing a proposal of competencies for pharmaceutical services based in PHC.

According to PAHO/WHO¹ *competencies (e.g., knowledge, skills, and attitudes) are personal characteristics that become evident when a task is carried out or a job is performed. They are related to successful performance of an activity, work-related or otherwise*". Whereas it may have different definitions of competencies and forms of development, we invite you to participate in this consultation.

Contributions to the consultation will be used in the development of the proposal on pharmacists competencies for the development of pharmaceutical services (SF) based on Primary Health Care (PHC) and Good Pharmacy Practice, as well as strategies for implementation of this proposal.

¹ PAHO/WHO. **Primary Health Care-Based Health systems: Strategies for the Development of Primary Health Care Team**. Washington, D.C.: PAHO, 2009. Available at: http://new.paho.org/hq/dmdocuments/2010/PHC-Strategies_Development_PHC_Teams.pdf

Information on the consultation

Period: 6 to 27 March 2012 (3 weeks).

Objectives

General Objective: Identify experiences in the development and evaluation of competencies necessary for implementation of PHC-based pharmaceutical services in the Americas.

Specific objectives:

- Learn about the education of pharmacists in the countries of the region;
- Learn about the roles and functions performed by the pharmacist in pharmaceutical services and APS;
- Learn about successful experiences in developing competencies for the pharmacist;
- identify results of the development of these competencies and its possible impact in improving the quality of services;
- Know Learn lessons learned and recommendations.

How to participate?

Please complete the appropriate fields of the forms (Annex 1 - description of experience and Annex 2- authorization and declaration of interest). If necessary, please use more than one page to describe your experience. Please attach references, files, documents or indicate the links or any other material that you find useful for better understanding of the experience, results or impact. Send the completed form (Annexes 1 and 2) or by fax ivamaadr@cpc.paho.org +1 (246) 436-9779.

Please see below the description of the content to be included in each field of the form. If the information is not applicable, please indicate N/A and if the information exists, but is not available, indicate N/D.

Annex 1. Experience

1. Title of Experience

2. Author (s)

- a) Responsible (s) for the experience
- b) Institution and title or function
- c) Address or other information that facilitates contact/Address (street, number, city, state or province, postal code and country), email and phone (including international code)

3. Identification/characteristics of the experience

- a) What are the objectives of the experience?
- b) Place of development: institution, city, state/province, country
- c) Participants: please indicate the actors involved in the development of the experience
- d) Explain the scope of the experience: international, national, regional or local

4. Description of the context of development experience

- a) Is there a definition of competency officially adopted or as part of tacit knowledge in your country or institution? If yes, please describe it. Indicate whether this definition or another, you use to describe the experience.
- b) Please describe which skills to developed in the Pharmacy degree course

- c) Please describe the profile of the pharmacist (degree) officially adopted in your country or your institution.

5. Description of the experience

- a) Please describe the methodology, when and where (in what context) the competencies were developed.
- b) What competencies specifically related to pharmaceutical services and PHC teams have been developed?
- c) At what level were they developed? Undergraduate, post-graduate, life-long learning and continuing education programs, in-service training or otherwise.
- d) Please include a brief analysis of the proposal implementation: difficulties, strengths, lessons learned.
- e) Has the experience generated changes in the education (curriculum, disciplines, etc.) or in the context of practice? Please describe briefly.
- f) What has (have) been the result(s) of the competencies development? For example, had the experience resulted in any improvement of the services provided? There was any impact on the health of the population served by services?

6. Considerations, Tips and Recommendations

From your experience, what considerations, suggestions and/or recommendations could you make to the working group?

Annex 2. Authorization and Declaration of Interests

Part I is an authorization for using the data presented to the consultation and publishing it on the PAHO/WHO website.

At Part II, please declare any interests you have that would constitute a conflict of interest with respect to the related experience. As it is related to pharmaceutical services, it is of vital importance that the authors of the experiences declare financial interests or other related medicines, and/or pharmaceutical companies, for example:

- ✓ Existence of a current proprietary interest in a medicine or compound (e.g. ownership of a patent);
- ✓ Existence of any current financial interest (e.g. shares, bonds) in a pharmaceutical company – except share holdings through general mutual funds or similar arrangement where the participant has no control over the selection of shares;
- ✓ Employment, consultancy, directorship or other position in a pharmaceutical company during the past 2 years or an on-going negotiation or arrangement concerning prospective employment or other association with a pharmaceutical company (or pharmaceutical organisation).

You are requested to declare any relationship/link with funders of the experience that could influence the results in any way.

The information submitted will be reviewed by the working group and will be verified if there is a significant conflict of interest. Any such conflict will be noted in the consolidation of results.