



Pan American  
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REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE  
Americas

## Increasing Access to NCD medicines in the Caribbean 22-23 February 2017

Room B, PAHO Headquarters  
525 23<sup>rd</sup> St NW  
Washington, DC USA

### AGENDA

#### Context:

Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) – including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes – are the leading cause of death in the Caribbean. Prevention of NCDs is important, however, investing in better NCD management is a key component of the NCD response. Management of NCDs includes the screening, detection and treatment of NCDs as well as palliative care. Such interventions are essential for achieving the global target of a 25% relative reduction in premature mortality from NCDs.

One of the noncommunicable disease (NCD) global voluntary targets is “an 80% availability of the affordable basic technologies and essential medicines, including generics, required to treat major NCDs in both public and private facilities”. However, in reviewing the results of the progress with the NCD targets, a significant gap is noted in achieving this target. Therefore, the Unit of Noncommunicable Diseases (NMH/ND) of the Department of Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health (NMH), and the Unit of Medicines and Health Technologies (HSS/MT) of the Department of Health Systems and Services (HSS) will convene the national NCD program managers and those responsible for drug policy/procurement in the Caribbean, to discuss how best to improve access to quality NCD medicines in the region.

#### Purpose:

1. To review and discuss the situation regarding the global, regional and national NCD commitments, specifically related to NCD medicines.
2. To discuss the barriers and solutions to improve quality, availability and equitable access to NCD medicines, including opioids, in the Caribbean.
3. To stimulate the use of the PAHO Strategic Fund for NCD drug procurement in the Caribbean.

#### Expected Result:

1. Improved awareness and understanding of the gaps and barriers in access to NCD medicines.
2. Increased understanding of how the PAHO Strategic Fund can be utilized to improve access to NCD medicines.
3. A plan on how PAHO and Member States can work more intensely together to improve the quality, availability and equitable access to NCD medicines, including opioids, in the Caribbean.

**Wednesday, 22 February, 2017**

<b>8:30am</b>	<b>Participant registration</b>
<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b>  <i>Dr. Anselm Hennis, Department of Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, PAHO</i>  <i>Dr. Analia Porras, Medicines and Technologies Unit, PAHO</i>
<b>9:30am</b>	<b>SESSION 1: NCD SITUATION AND COMMITMENTS FOR NCD MANAGEMENT</b> <i>Moderator: Silvana Luciani</i>
9:30am	Regional NCD Plan of Action and Commitments for NCD Management <i>Silvana Luciani, Noncommunicable Diseases Unit, PAHO</i>  Questions and answers
9:50am	Essential Medicines for NCD Management <i>Dr. Anselm Hennis, PAHO</i>  Questions and answers
10:10am	Improving access to NCD medicines in the OECS <i>Dr. Francis Burnett, OECS Pharmaceutical Procurement Services</i>  Questions and answers
<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>10:45am</b>	<b>SESSION 2: PAHO STRATEGIC FUND</b> <i>Moderator: Analia Porras</i>
10:45am	Overview of the PAHO Strategic Fund and its Benefits <i>Analia Porras, Medicines and Technologies Unit, PAHO</i>  Questions and answers
11:15am	Operations and Procedures of the PAHO Strategic Fund <i>Manuel Lavayen, Medicines and Technologies Unit, PAHO</i>  Questions and answers
11:45am	Commentary from participating Member States on experiences and benefits of utilizing the PAHO Strategic Fund  Discussion
<b>12:30pm</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>

<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>SESSION 3: COUNTRY SITUATION ON NCD MEDICINES</b> <i>Moderator: Tomo Kanda</i>
2:00pm	Example from Barbados: Standardized hypertension approach to improve outcomes <i>Dr. Kenneth Connell, Barbados</i> Questions and answers
2:25pm	Experiences with the Jamaica National Health Fund and NCD medicines <i>Erica McIntosh, National Health Fund</i> Questions and answers
2:50pm	Trinidad & Tobago: Challenges and opportunities to improve access to NCD medicines <i>Andrea Goddard Grimes, Trinidad &amp; Tobago</i> Questions and answers
3:10pm	Discussion on the gaps, barriers and lessons learned to improve access to NCD medicines
<b>3:30pm</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>3:45pm</b>	<b>SESSION 3 Cont'd: COUNTRY SITUATION ON NCD MEDICINES</b> <i>Moderator: Tomo Kanda</i>
<b>3:45pm</b>	Haiti: experiences with PROMESS <i>Sandra Benjamin, PROMESS</i> Questions and answers
<b>4:10pm</b>	Bahamas: experiences to improve access and quality of NCD medicines <i>Dr. Marvin Smith, Bahamas</i> Questions and answers
<b>4:35 pm</b>	Discussion on gaps, barriers and lessons learned
<b>4:50pm</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS from the day's discussions</b> Dr. Anselm Hennis, PAHO
<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>ADJOURN</b>

**Thursday, 23 February 2017**

<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Review and highlights of previous day's discussion</b> Silvana Luciani, PAHO
<b>9:15am</b>	<b>SESSION 3 Cont'd : COUNTRY SITUATION ON NCD MEDICINES</b> <i>Moderator: Mauricio Cerpa</i>
9:15am	Belize: Challenges and suggestions on how to improve access to NCD medicines <i>Dr. Francis Morey, Belize</i> Questions and answers
9:40am	Guyana: Availability, access and gaps for NCD medicines <i>Dr. Serena Bender, Guyana</i> Questions and answers
10:05am	Suriname: Challenges to meet the NCD target of 80% availability of NCD medicines <i>Dr. Maureen Wijngaarde-Van Dijk, Suriname</i> Questions and answers
<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Coffee</b>
<b>11:00am</b>	<b>SESSION 4: COUNTRY NEEDS TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND QUALITY TO NCD MEDICINES</b> <i>Moderator: Silvana Luciani</i> Moderated discussion to identify the barriers and needs in each country to improve access, quality, and coverage of NCD medicines, for each disease: cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases.
<b>12.00pm</b>	<b>SESSION 5: STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO NCD MEDICINES</b> <i>Moderator: Analia Porras</i> Moderated discussion and agreement on the strategies, actions and priorities for technical cooperation to Caribbean Member States to improve access to NCD medicines.
<b>12:30pm</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>2:00pm</b>	<b>SESSION 6: A PLAN TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO NCD MEDICINES IN THE CARIBBEAN</b> <i>Moderator: Silvana Luciani and Analia Porras</i>  Development and agreement on the workplan, milestones, timelines, and technical support from PAHO to Member States, to improve access to NCD medicines.
<b>3:30pm</b>	Final agreements, next steps and concluding remarks <i>Silvana Luciani and Analia Porras</i>
<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>