Increasing Access to Injectable Contraceptives

Planning for Introduction of depo-subQ provera 104™ in the Uniject® Device

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Our mission is to improve the health of people around the world by advancing technologies, strengthening health systems, and encouraging healthy behaviors.
Injectable contraceptives: Growing demand, challenges to access

• Global demand for injectables will increase by more than 30 percent by 2015 (UNFPA).

• High discontinuation rates:
  • 21% to 46 % after one year, in part due to distance, time, and cost to return to a facility every three months.
Depo-subQ in Uniject

What is depo-subQ provera 104?

• Depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA) injectable contraceptive.
• Manufactured by Pfizer.
• Use, safety, contraceptive efficacy, and side effect profile equivalent to that of DMPA 150 mg.
  • Administered every three months (12-14 weeks).
  • 104 mg of DMPA required for subcutaneous injection.
  • Packaged in Uniject.

What is the Uniject device?

• Prefilled injection system developed by PATH in 1987 in response to WHO’s call for improved injection delivery designs.
• Designed to overcome challenges facing low-resource settings, including:
  • Reuse of syringes or needles.
  • Vaccine waste.
  • Access to health facilities.
• Sold by Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD) in bulk, prefillable (empty) form to drug producers.
Opportunities to improve access

Depo-subQ in Uniject has the potential to increase:

- **Quality of service provision:**
  - Safety (exact dose, sterility, non-reuse).
  - Programmatic benefits (provider/client satisfaction, logistics, disposal).
  - Reduced weight and volume—logistics benefits related to:
    - Storage.
    - Distribution.
    - Waste disposal.

- **Access to injectable contraceptives:**
  - Delivery by community based health workers facilitated by:
    - Ease of use (prefilled, single dose).
    - Easier training compared to intramuscular (IM) presentation.
    - Less weight to carry, less volume to store, and less waste to dispose.
    - No mismatch of vials and needles/syringes.
Limited introduction of depo-subQ provera 104™ in the Uniject® Device

Project objectives:
1. Generate data and experience to inform introduction plans for depo-subQ in Uniject in up five sub-Saharan African and South Asian countries.
2. Assist focus countries to develop introduction plans and create a climate of national readiness for product introduction.
3. Stimulate introduction planning in other early adopter countries.

Funding: Grant from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Timeline: January 2009 through December 2011.
Project framework and timeline

Dissemination, advocacy, and strategic development

- Identification of candidate countries (Jan.-Feb. 2009)
- Multi-country and country technical landscape assessments (Nov. 2009 – Oct. 2010)
- Initial country assessments (March-Oct. 2009)
- Identification of early introduction focus countries (Sept.-Oct. 2009)

Global and country-level stakeholder engagement
Initial assessments: overview

- **Eight countries:** Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, and Senegal.

- High-level analysis to gather information, identify opportunities and challenges, and obtain country perspectives.

- Meetings with 30-50 informants in each country to assess stakeholder interest in and commitment to product and project.

- Findings provided direction for focus country identification and global introduction planning.
Initial assessments: findings

Time saving:
  • All-in-one drug and needle.
  • Pre-dosed.

Improved injection safety:
  • Cannot be reused.

Benefits for non-clinic access and lower-level providers:
  • Reduced training time and cost.
  • Exact dosage, no need to draw from vial.

Potential to influence community access policies.
**Initial assessment: findings**

**Logistics and service delivery benefits:**

- Procurement streamlined due to single item.
- Potential transport and storage cost savings.
- No need to account for and bundle vials and syringes.
- No mismatch between vials and syringes at service point.
- Less bulk for providers to carry when on foot or bike.
- Less medical waste.
Project focus country identification

• Criteria developed in coordination with Global Technical Advisory Group.
• Informed by research, initial assessments, and stakeholder input.
• Considerations and criteria included:
  • Interest in and feasibility of product introduction.
  • Country-level support for family planning (government, NGO, etc.).
  • Potential for product to increase access to family planning.
  • Activities appropriate to project timeframe and scope.
  • Diverse portfolio of countries.
Project focus countries

Up to five countries over three-year project timeframe:

- **Initiating landscape assessment and introduction planning:**
  - Kenya.
  - Rwanda *in collaboration with Family Health International*.
  - Malawi.
  - Senegal.

- **Continuing to assess interest and feasibility:**
  - Ethiopia.
  - Pakistan *in partnership with MSS Pakistan*.

- **Additional countries:**
  - Initiating introduction planning under USAID program.
  - Collaborations to transfer PATH-developed processes, guidelines, and tools.
Our goal: a **product introduction plan that is:**

- **Specific:** Will use analyses and information relevant to each country’s family planning goals, strategies, market, and systems.

- **Action-driven:** Will enable practical introduction when product is registered and available, with identified roles and responsibilities.

- **Time-limited:** Will identify steps required for product introduction to begin within two years of completing the plan.
Building a country introduction plan

Multi-country tools

Country landscape assessments

Introduction plan

- Demand models for product
- Logistics benefits
- Financing innovations

- Planning/procurement
- Logistics system
- Service delivery system
- Distribution channels
- Training and supervision
- Communications
- Policy
- Advocacy

Adapt to country context & apply to technical areas

- Communications plan
- Policy & advocacy
- Product plan
- Distribution & service delivery plan

Plan building
Multi-country tools

Demand models:
  • Create scenarios to estimate depo-subQ in Uniject market share and size.

Logistics benefits:
  • Estimate potential storage, distribution, and waste disposal benefits.

Financing innovations:
  • Identify potential alternative financing strategies.
Country landscape assessments

Multi-country tools:
- Demand models
- Logistics benefits
- Financing innovations

Country landscape assessments:
- Planning/procurement
- Advocacy
- Logistics system
- Policy
- Communications
- Training and supervision
- Distribution channels
- Service delivery system

Actionable introduction plan
Conclusion

• Systematic, action-driven introduction planning for depo-subQ in Uniject is anticipated to increase access to injectable contraceptives.

• Processes, guidelines, and tools will be documented and widely disseminated.
Sara Tifft
Project Director

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