Applying Pharmacoeconomics and Health Technology Assessment (HTA) to Essential Medicines Selection Workshop

Nairobi, Kenya
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New medicines have the potential to greatly improve health outcomes, but health care programs across the globe are faced with challenges to make evidence-based decisions on selection of medicines to ensure the value for money. Selection of essential medicines should be based on the evaluation of clinical outcomes, costs, and cost-effectiveness. With the challenges of the global economic situation and the clamor for universal health coverage, developing countries are increasingly faced with the need to develop explicit criteria for priority setting in health and also to build capacity of regulators, academics, and other health care professionals who are involved in making evidence-based decisions on essential medicines selection, pricing regulation, reimbursement, and review of clinical trials.

University of Nairobi in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Health Commodities and Services Management (HCSM) and Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS) program and University of Washington is conducting a four-day training of trainers' (ToT) workshop to develop sustainable skills in pharmacoeconomics principles and HTA as they relate to essential medicines selection. This TOT which adopts the continuous quality improvement Monitoring-Training-Planning (MTP) approach will provide an opportunity to empower academics, regulators, and health care professionals to become facilitators for further training programs in their own settings. The mid to long-term goal is to incorporate pharmacoeconomics and HTA principles into pre-service and post graduate training courses in pharmacy and medical schools.

During the workshop and follow-on trainings, action plans will be developed for activity implementation and follow-up support.

Objectives
The objectives of Pharmacoeconomics and HTA workshop include:

- To provide basic concepts, terminology, and methods of pharmacoeconomics and HTA
- To gain an understanding of evidence-based approach to economic evaluation
- To develop an understanding of basic calculations of costs, health outcomes, and cost-effectiveness
- To gain an understanding of how to interpret/ understand the results of pharmacoeconomics studies and HTA reports
- To develop practical skills in the use of basic cost-effectiveness tools and measures to help in the selection of medicines, pricing regulation, and formulary decisions
- To understand the impact of the introduction of new health technologies on medicines budget
To build institutional capacity of in-country stakeholders for medicines selection and HTA systems

Workshop Design
The program is designed as a four-day workshop. The workshop is conducted in English and designed to be highly interactive. The teaching methods include presentations, discussions, and case study exercises. Participants will also be provided technical resources for joint learning in the area of Pharmacoeconomics and Health Technology Assessment.

Facilitators
Workshop facilitators are drawn from renowned faculties of the University of Washington—partners of the SIAPS program, University of Nairobi lecturers, SIAPS and HCSM technical staff, all of whom have extensive experience working with a variety of initiatives to help apply pharmacoeconomics principles and HTA to essential medicines selection, pricing regulation, reimbursement, and clinical trials.

Participants
Attendance is limited to 30 participants who have been pre-identified. The participants comprise of staff from the following groups, organizations, and agencies—

- Academics from pre-service and post-graduate pharmacy and medical schools
- Ministry of Health
- National Medicines and Therapeutics Committee (NMTC)
- KEMSA, NHIF, KEMRI and PPB
- County health representatives
- Core pharmaceutical sector agencies
- Facility MTC representatives

Location
The workshop will take place in Nairobi, Kenya.

Participant Expenses
There is no registration fee for the workshop. The expenses for participants including the cost of transportation, lodging, and per-diem where applicable will be covered by the workshop organizers.