

HIV AIDS CARE AND SUPPORT

Procurement of Anti-Retrovirals for ART and PMTCT (Summary)

BACKGROUND

UNICEF Supply Division has been involved in the supply of Anti-Retroviral therapy (ART) since 1997, when, at first, support was provided to the initiation of pilot programmes intended to test the feasibility of interventions aimed at preventing transmission of HIV from mothers to infants. Currently UNICEF uses its global supply network to deliver anti-retroviral (ARV) medicines to 28 projects in Africa and Asia. The agency has also provided competitive cost estimates for ARV therapies to over 30 countries; and is actively offering assistance to all countries that require such procurement services. This product briefing summarises procurement information for UNICEF country programmes and partners involved in ARV programming. Specific guidance is presented on the selection of products, issues affecting quantification and procurement details. More information can be obtained through UNICEF Programme Division, New York, and Supply Division in Copenhagen. Contact: supply@unicef.org

CONSIDERATIONS FOR SUPPLY MANAGEMENT AT COUNTRY LEVEL

Uninterrupted, appropriate care and treatment for PLWHA are of utmost importance. Setting up an ART programme requires that basic components of service delivery be in place/progressively put in place for optimal use of ARVs. They are:

- a) Health facility readiness criteria needs to be defined: e.g., appropriately trained staff in all adequate numbers: - in the hospital, at least two doctors, two trained midwife/nurse counsellors, one trained laboratory technician, one trained pharmaceutical technician; - in all clinics offering follow up care services, at least one trained midwife counsellor: availability of all appropriate supplies.
- b) Availability of all supplies including laboratory equipment and reagents. Clinical care services – availability of treatment protocols, guidelines and manuals, trained clinic staff, system for monitoring efficacy of ART, client follow up and referral mechanisms in place.
- c) Capacity of counsellors developed to assure the availability of effective and private counselling services that includes adherence counselling.
- d) Pharmaceutical services - efficient storage and distribution of ARV drugs. Mechanism for monitoring stock and reporting of consumption should be ensured.
- e) Laboratory services - type and frequency of lab tests needed to monitor patients defined. Relevant basic lab equipment and supplies available and capacity of the laboratory staff built.
- f) Monitoring and evaluation - programme indicators selected and measured periodically to inform programming
- g) Funding commitment to continue treatment for patients enrolled, at least for 5 years.
- h) Existence of reliable regulatory mechanisms against misuse and misappropriation of drugs

Coordinating the availability of supplies at the onset of the programme and ensuring a continuous reliable supply of commodities during programming require careful supply and distribution planning at the earliest possible opportunity. Ideally, a coordinating mechanism should be established through government, to ensure appropriate resource utilisation. Regular monitoring of the supply status will not only ensure reliable access to supplies, but also prevent losses due to expiry.

PROCUREMENT OF APPROPRIATE PRODUCTS

UNICEF procurement of ARVs is guided by the guidelines/principles listed below. Exceptions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

- **CURRENT WHO MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES.** First priority is given to WHO recommended first- and second-line treatments.
See http://www.who.int/3by5/publications/documents/arv_guidelines/en/
- **QUALITY:** UNICEF procurement is limited to products that have been pre-qualified by WHO, and participating suppliers need to appear on the latest list of pre-qualified suppliers published on the WHO website given below. A caveat in the requirement from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria states that, until end of 2004, products procured by the Fund, not appearing in the WHO list, should at least be registered by the National Drug Authority.
See <http://mednet3.who.int/prequal/default.shtml>
- **COST:** Evidence exists that the use of generic products may result in substantial cost savings. Generic ARV products of appropriate quality are available, see above, but their use is governed by an enabling legislative framework. Depending on the patent status of the product and allowances in the patent laws in the country of destination, procurement will be guided by commercial competitiveness within the local legal context.
- **UNICEF PROGRAMMES:** Orders for country programmes are guided by the latest programme guidance note on ARV procurement **CF/PD/PN/03-002**. Products are ordered under the following generic material number: U350000. Orders will be reviewed in the technical services unit and guidance to programmes will ensue.
- Procurement request from partners outside UNICEF are handled in the Procurement Services Section in Supply Division. Guidance is available on the UNICEF internet site.
http://www.unicef.org/supply/index_procurement_services.html

LIST OF AVAILABLE ARVS

(NOTE: This list is updated regularly. Further product information available on request)

SINGLE FORMULATIONS		FIXED DOSE COMBINATIONS
Abacavir 300mg tabs	Nevirapine 200mg tabs	
Abacavir oral sol. 100mg/5ml	Nevirapine oral susp. 50mg/5ml	lamivudine 150mg + zidovudine 300mg + abacavir 300mg tab
Didanosine 25mg tabs	Ritonavir 100mg caps	
Didanosine 50mg chewable tabs	Saquinavir 200mg h.g. caps	lamivudine 150mg+ zidovudine 300mg
Didanosine 100mg tabs	Stavudine 15mg caps	
Didanosine 150mg chewable tabs	Stavudine 20mg caps	Lamivudine 150mg+ stavudine 30mg
Didanosine 200mg chewable tabs	Ritonavir 100mg caps	Lamivudine 150mg+ stavudine 40mg
Efavirenz 50mg caps	Stavudine 30mg caps	
Efavirenz 200mg caps	Stavudine 40mg caps	Lamivudine 150mg+ stavudine 30mg + nevirapine 200mg tab
Efavirenz 600mg tabs	Stavudine oral sol. 1mg/ml	Lamivudine 150mg+ stavudine 40mg + nevirapine 200mg tab
Efavirenz oral sol 30mg/ml	Tenofovir 300mg tabs	
Indinavir 200mg caps	Zidovudine 100mg tabs	Lopinavir + RTV oral sol. 400+ 100mg/5ml
Indinavir 400mg caps	Zidovudine 250mg tabs	Lopinavir + RTV, 133.3+ 33.3mg caps
Lamivudine 150mg tabs	Zidovudine 300mg tabs	
Lamivudine oral sol. 50mg/5ml	Zidovudine oral sol. 50mg/5ml	
Nelfinavir 250mg tabs		
Nelfinavir 50mg/g powder		