

Country policy development for chlorhexidine 7.1% introduction for umbilical cord care

Areas to address	Key actions	Technical/ operational lead	Estimated timeline	Comments
Country policy development	Establish mechanisms to engage with and contribute to global policy adoption and development process for chlorhexidine 7.1%: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in global, regional, and in country meetings in relation to UN Commission work 			
	Inform policy makers and key stakeholders of ongoing discussions at global level and progress in development of chlorhexidine 7.1% for umbilical cord care			
	Engage decision makers and facilitate discussions at national level on the inadequacies of existing cord care strategies and the potential strategies for change			
	Identify key partners and stakeholders and formalize a working group that engages in the policy development process			
	Review national regulations and policies to identify potential barriers to implementation			
	Analyze the capacity of the health care system to appropriately manage and use chlorhexidine 7.1%; key considerations may include capacity to— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> procure and distribute the product perform essential quality monitoring provide the appropriate quality of medical care train service providers generate demand at community level involve community health workers in distribution of 7.1% chlorhexidine implement demand generation activities to increase awareness among the community and caregivers to adopt use of chlorhexidine 7.1 % for cord care store products appropriately minimize losses and theft 			
	Identify opportunities for leveraging funding for the policy change and to introduce and integrate other neonatal infection control program or health system strengthening activities to minimize transition costs			
	Determine the full costs of adopting and implementing a new policy to introduce chlorhexidine 7.1% treatment strategy			
	Review the information, and study results for the introduction of chlorhexidine 7.1%			
	Develop and endorse the new policy			

Country implementation

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Registration	<p>Register chlorhexidine 7.1% using a fast-track mechanism, if available</p> <p>Where exemptions are given for the initial procurement, ensure that an application to register the product is submitted in good time to allow follow-on procurement to proceed promptly to avoid stock-outs</p>			
Planning	<p>Identify an existing committee or establish a new committee to manage the transition</p> <p>Develop terms of reference and mechanisms for coordination and communication with key bodies/partner</p> <p>Make key decisions on—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • level of the health care system and/or sector (e.g., public and private) where the new product will be available • method of introduction of chlorhexidine 7.1%: phasing in or introduction through a full national rollout • criteria for a facility to start using chlorhexidine 7.1% <p>Determine the first possible arrival date for chlorhexidine 7.1%; develop rollout or phase-in plan</p> <p>Set schedule to review implementation progress and to adjust plans as needed; identify standards to determine whether introduction at a site is successful</p>			

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Financing	<p>Develop multiyear budget for chlorhexidine 7.1%, including buffer stocks and stock to fill the pipeline; consider costs for transport, insurance, quality assurance (QA) testing, and clearing</p> <p>Develop budget for introduction including costs for—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establishing and convening working group meetings • developing and disseminating new treatment guidelines • revising and printing new operational manuals, tools and reporting and recording forms • preparing training materials and advocacy, communication, and social mobilization (ACSM) materials • training health care providers and community partners • establishing QA testing for chlorhexidine 7.1% • operational research and ongoing monitoring and evaluation <p>Map out potential resources at national level; evaluate current spending and redirect funds if necessary</p> <p>Determine the funding gap</p> <p>Map out potential international resources, e.g., multilateral and bilateral donors, foundations, and develop a funding strategy</p> <p>Secure commitments from ministry of health and from donors</p> <p>Develop/review mechanisms for financial accountability</p> <p>Evaluate cost-sharing and exemption mechanisms and develop strategies to address inequities</p>			
Revise program guidelines, Essential Medicines List (EML), and reporting and recording forms	<p>Determine which program guidelines, tools, and associated materials need to be updated; decide if amendments will be incorporated into the existing guidelines and materials or published as an addendum</p> <p>Determine costs and responsibilities for updating the guidelines and associated tools</p> <p>Update and disseminate guidelines and materials; coordinate process with training and implementation of ACSM strategies</p> <p>Add Chlorhexidine 7.1% to the national EML; publish revised EML</p> <p>Revise recording and reporting forms; field-test, print, and disseminate</p>			

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Training of health workers and community partners (community health worker/relais)	Develop training strategy, budget, and plan; coordinate with dissemination of guidelines, implementation of ACSM strategies, and delivery of supplies			
	Develop and field-test training materials; adapt tools for supportive supervision to incorporate the new guidelines			
	Train core team of trainers			
	Implement training plan; monitor quality of training			
	Revise preservice and in-service curricula to incorporate the new recommendations into ongoing training			
ACSM strategies	Develop and budget behavior change communication (BCC) and ACSM strategies; coordinate implementation with dissemination of guidelines and training			
	Develop and implement ongoing BCC and ACSM strategies to support rational use of chlorhexidine 7.1%			
Forecasting and quantification	Define coverage and objectives for the forecast; identify budget restrictions or factors that may affect the forecast, such as procurement by other partners			
	Determine availability and limitations of consumption and/or morbidity data; select quantification method(s) that will be used to develop an initial forecast			
	Calculate needs for a phased or nationwide implementation; determine size of buffer stocks for the different levels and requirements to fill the pipeline			
Forecasting and quantification (continued)	Use data from pilot sites and/or phased implementation to adjust estimates of the potential demand and uptake; refine forecasts and set schedule for quantifying ongoing needs			
Procurement	Determine procurement mechanisms available for the procurement; review donor and/or government requirements and restrictions for the procurement			
	Ascertain the lead time for the products and the estimated shelf life on delivery			
	Set QA standards and verification methods			
	Determine procurement method and develop a procurement plan; set procurement calendar			
	Assure financing for the product, transport, insurance, QA testing, and clearing customs			
	Implement procurement; pay invoices and claim damages (if any)			
	Monitor the procurement process and supplier performance; communicate information on potential delays to the committee/working group managing the introduction of chlorhexidine 7.1%			

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Distribution	<p>Develop a distribution strategy of chlorhexidine 7.1% for phased or nationwide implementation</p> <p>Integrate the distribution of chlorhexidine 7.1% into the overall distribution plan</p> <p>Involve community health workers in the distribution to increase access at the community level</p> <p>Verify clearing/importation requirements and arrange timely exemptions</p> <p>Receive and clear stock; comply with QA procedures</p> <p>Implement distribution plan</p> <p>Monitor the distribution process and communicate information on potential delays to the committee/working group managing the transition</p>			
Health system strengthening	<p>Identify resources and develop a plan for strengthening health care systems to meet criteria for a site to start using chlorhexidine 7.1%; considerations may include capacity building to—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • properly store the product • provide appropriate quality of care • produce reliable, valid, and timely data on uptake, consumption, and outcomes and to track the product through the system • manage the supplies of products to avoid stock-outs or wastage • promote the rational use of medicines <p>Integrate capacity-building activities to support the availability and appropriate use of chlorhexidine 7.1% with other initiatives to strengthen health systems</p> <p>Synchronize timing of capacity-building activities with the phased or nationwide implementation plan to ensure sites meet criteria for startup</p>			
Quality and safety	<p>Adhere to registration requirements to assure safety, efficacy, and quality of chlorhexidine 7.1%</p> <p>Set QA standards and verification methods for procurement; identify and secure funding to implement testing</p>			
Monitoring and evaluation	<p>Explore the use of pilot zones and operational research to guide the appropriate implementation of the policy to introduce chlorhexidine 7.1%</p> <p>Identify standards to determine whether introduction at a site is successful</p> <p>Develop a monitoring plan to collect, analyze, and report data on success of implementation; solicit feedback from health care staff, patients, and other stakeholders; take timely corrective actions as needed</p> <p>Prepare a report on findings at the end of each phase of the transition process</p> <p>Prepare a final report on the introduction process; share experiences and lessons learned with other countries</p>			