Lessons Learned from EU Collaboration Efforts During the Pandemic – The End or the Beginning? From Vaccines to Orphans and Gene Therapies
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Lessons Learned Collaboration Efforts During the Pandemic – The End or the Beginning?

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WHO EURO COVID-19 Incident Management Support Team
Europe – the pandemic over time

- Vaccination introduced in adults
- Vaccination in adolescents
- Recommendation to use corticosteroids
- Recommendation to use IL-6 receptor blockers
- Recommendation to use monoclonal antibodies
- Recommendation to use corticosteroids
- Response scale up: testing, sequencing, supplies, capacities

VOC Variants:
- Alpha VOC
- Delta VOC
- Omicron VOC
Europe – current situation

Rapid rise in case incidence across European region driven by:
- High population susceptibility particularly in children/young adults due to varying rates of prior infection; vaccine uptake and vaccine waning
- Replacement by more transmissible Delta variant
- Relaxation of PHSM/change in behavior

Rapid rise in severe disease, particularly in Eastern part of region:
- High rates of population transmission
- Low vaccine uptake in vulnerable populations

Public Health Response needed:
- Reduce transmission now – strengthen PHSM
- Increase vaccination of priority groups
- Strengthen health care system

Europe is Delta dominant now, but will the future be Omicron?
THANK YOU
Virtual

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NO SLIDES FOR THIS PRESENTER
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Lessons Learned from EU Collaboration Efforts During the Pandemic
The End or the Beginning?
From Vaccines to Orphans and Gene Therapies
Joined HTA
Joined Reimbursement and Contracting
Information Sharing
Horizon Scanning

Good Neighbours
Expert Network and Capacity
Assessment of COVID-19 monoclonal antibodies is needed

The Beneluxa Initiative considers value assessments of medicines prior to reimbursement in their respective countries, to be essential in quantifying the potential added benefit of treatments relative to the price requested. This concept was reaffirmed in a recent joint statement with the Nordic Pharmaceutical Forum.

The urgency of the pandemic had required some changes to normal medicine regulatory processes to tackle the global pressure on health systems; for the EMA this has resulted in the introduction of rolling reviews. Rolling reviews involve a real time examination of evidence to establish if sufficient information is available to support a marketing authorization. This allowed countries to prepare early on for joint procurement of e.g. vaccines at an exceptional time.

More recently the EMA has begun rolling reviews on monoclonal antibodies to treat some patients with COVID-19 (September 2021).

However the Beneluxa considers if appropriate at this stage of the pandemic that these therapies are assessed for value within established national processes, before decisions on reimbursement or procurement are made. Informed decision making in this matter includes exchange of available HTA information within Beneluxa.

1 https://amppoi db/4550/
vaccines/treatments-covid-19/covid-19-treatments-under-evaluation
3 https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.a2251

Last update: 01 October 2021
managing fragile balances

Solidarity
Science
Health Priorities

Solidarity

Urgency
Politics
Economics

and Investments Infrastructure, Employment, Education,..

Cost of Individualization

and Freedom, Vax Reluctancy, Postponed Care,..

Payer
QOL
Awareness and Trust
Digitalization

Buyer
QO Wellbeing
Fatigue
e-vulnerability
Virtual
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The pandemic has abruptly brought public health back to the top of the policy agenda

• “The virus has disproportionately hit the elderly and those with underlying health conditions”
• “The pandemic highlighted the shortages of health workers”
• “There has been a clear social gradient in COVID-19 deaths”
• “Only a few countries have managed to limit the health and economic impacts”
• “The pandemic has highlighted the need to consider the resilience of our health systems”
• …
Unhealthy lifestyles

Inequalities

Lacking the broad picture

Mental health ignored

QoL health workers ignored

Lack of trust in policy makers

No perspective

Lack of respect for elderly
LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND
10 opportunities for the EU and its member states

1. Improved information gathering and coordinated data governance
2. Joint scientific consultations and clear advice, involving all stakeholders
3. From horizon scanning to horizon shaping: preparedness!
4. Public-private partnerships for developing innovations
5. Move towards assessments from a broader societal perspective
6. Be transparent about how much evidence is enough
7. Joint Value based Procurement together with differential EU prices
8. Modulated thresholds – how far do we go?
9. Transparent outcomes based agreements and payment models
10. Treat the whole patient, not the hole in the patient
Keep a cool head and a warm heart.

Mike Love
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