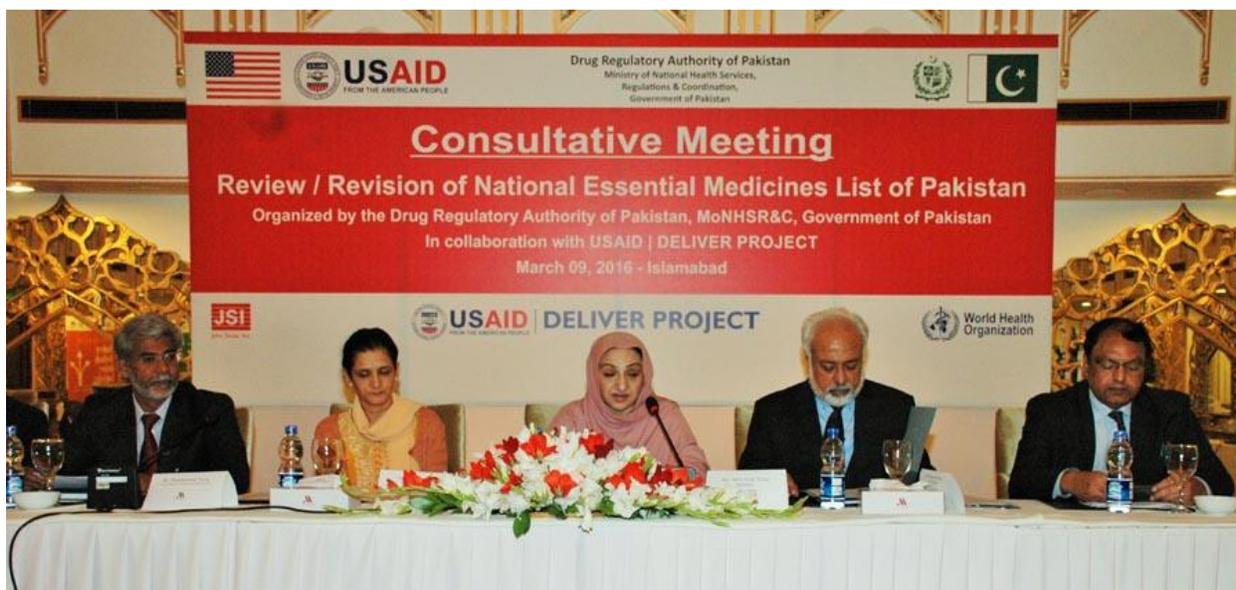


MEDIA COVERAGE

"Consultative Meeting on review/revision of National Essential Medicines list of Pakistan" on 9th March, 2016 at Marriot Hotel, Islamabad.

ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS (9th March, 2016)

Press information department Website (www.pid.gov.pk):



Islamabad, March 10, 2016: Minister of State for National Health Saira Afzal Tarar Chairing a Consultative Meeting on Review/ Revision of National Essential Medicine List of Pakistan organized by Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan with USAID|DELIVER.

http://www.pid.gov.pk/mar1016/healthmos_nem.jpg

The daily news:

Project to help finalise essential medicines list

Our correspondent
Islamabad

The USAID-funded Deliver Project will support the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) in finalising the National Essential Medicines List (NEML) and its publication.

In this connection, a national consultative meeting on review and revision of NEML was held here on Wednesday

night, with Minister of State for Health Saira Afzal as the chief guest. The activity was organised by USAID-funded Deliver Project, which is being implemented by John Snow Incorporation (JSI).

The development of NEML will guide the government's policies vis-a-vis regulation of prices, compilation of reimbursable drug lists, and production and procurement of vital essential medicines.

The Deliver Project is already contributing towards the implementation of the Pakistan Logistics Management Information System (LMIS) GS1 barcoding for effective track and trace in vaccines and contraceptives supply chain; the measure is contributing to improved governance and accountability within the health systems of Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion,

Dr. Sangita Patel, director for health, USAID Pakistan, assured USAID's continuous support to improve health safety standards in Pakistan.

Dr. Muhammad Tariq, country director of JSI and Deliver Project, highlighted the impact of investing in supply chain of drugs. Dr. Muhammad Aslam, CEO of DRAP, voiced commitment to improve patient safety and to introduce reforms for strengthening of

pharmaceutical systems in Pakistan. He appreciated the support of development partners, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Deliver team for their successful interventions for sustainable health systems strengthening.

Dr. Aslam assured that NEML would be available on DRAP website and that only medicines with proven efficacy, safety and cost-effectiveness will be included in the list.

<http://e.thenews.com.pk/pindi/3-11-2016/page13.asp>

Daily the Patriot:

Senate passes Pakistan Health Research Council bill 2015 unanimously

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Wednesday passed the Pakistan Health Research Council Bill, 2015 unanimously as reported by the Standing Committee.

State Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Saira Afzal Tarrar piloted the bill to provide for reconstitution and reorganization of the Pakistan Health Research Council (The Pakistan Health Research Council Bill, 2015) in the Upper House.

The Statements of Objects and Reasons of the bill says the Pakistan Medical Research Council (PMRC) is an autonomous organization established under Resolution. Supreme Court of Pakistan directed that bodies set-up through resolutions are not bodies corporate, but are government departments and their employees are civil servants. In order to give legal status of bodies corporate, Establishment Division issued a procedure for implementation by the concerned ministries/divisions.

In order to carry out its mandate and academic based research pursuits effectively, the erstwhile, Ministry of Health agreed that Pakistan Medical Research Council (PMRC) should continue as an autonomous organization.

However, it may be re-named as the Pakistan Health Research Council (PHRC).

The Management Services Wing of the Establishment Division has also agreed to the re-constitution of PMRC as PHRC with a legal status of body corporate through an Act of the Parliament. NNI



<http://dailythepatriot.com/e-paper/newsarchive.php?search=10/03/2016>

Daily Sama:



اسلام آباد: وزیر صحت کے متعلق سینیٹر سائرا افضل تارڑ نے ایوان کی اجلاس کی صدارت کر رہی ہیں

<http://sama.pk/epaper/islamabad/2016/03/11/page/8/>

Daily Ash-Sharq:



Health experts review list of essential medicines for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: About 50 international and national health experts and representatives of federal and provincial governments attended a meeting held here on Wednesday to review the essential medicines list.

The meeting proposed that 10 medicines / salts, which cannot be sold in Pakistan, should be taken off the list and around 30 medicines / salts be added to it.

The World Health Organisation's list of 374 essential medicines was taken as the model list.

After getting approval from the Pharmacy Services Division, over 390 medicines will be placed on the list and their availability will be ensured in the country.

An official privy to the meeting said that the list was initiated in the country in 1994 and was reviewed in 1995, 2000, 2003, 2007 and 2013.

“The WHO published a model list of Essential Medicines, 19th Edition, in April 2015 after amending its 2013 list. Therefore, the Pharmacy Services Division and the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan are now working on revision of the national essential medicines list, 2016,” he said.

Participants were divided into four groups and after consultations they recommended inclusion and exclusion of some salts. Some medicines of cancer, AIDS and hepatitis were recommended to be added to the national essential medicines list, he said.

“Moreover the essential medicines recommended by WHO and health department will also differ because the former focuses on patient safety but Pakistani health authorities focus more on cost-effectiveness. So we added the low-cost medicines / salts to our list,” he said.

In reply to a question, the official said that maximum molecules should be included in the list, otherwise smuggling of banned medicines and sale of unregistered medicines would increase.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan, Dr Mohammad Aslam, told Dawn that health experts and representatives of provincial governments also attended the meeting.

“We did not want to unnecessarily increase the number of medicines on the list because it becomes difficult to arrange all the medicines, but it seems that the list may reach near 400 because a number of new molecules have arrived in the market and they are required,” he said.

The recommendations will be finalised within a month and the final list will be circulated to the provinces. It will be ensured that public institutions will have all the medicines.

“After reviewing the national list a provincial list will also be prepared because requirements differ from province to province. Sometimes WHO also recommends cost-effective medicines as essential medicines,” he said.

“WHO prepares the list on the basis of the overall requirement of different countries and countries can make their own lists according to their own requirements,” he said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1244713>