



VENICE Work Package 4: Priority setting and decision making process

This work package is linked to the specific objective 5 of the project: to encourage a rational approach to vaccination policy decision-making processes by promoting the exchange of experience and expertise.

One of the principle activities of WP4 is the to elaborate the modalities of an on-going exchange of information about analysis being carried out, methodologies of analysis used and recommendations made by MSs in order to standardise and support the decision framework for making vaccine policy decisions.

During 2006, vaccines against rotavirus (RV) infection and human papillomavirus (HPV) infection were granted licensing authorisations by the European Medicines Agency. The availability of these vaccines on the European market provides a unique opportunity to carry out surveys that deconstruct in real-time the decision-making process that precedes the introduction of a vaccine to a national schedule and on a larger scale to facilitate a synergist approach to this process by sharing information and tools across Member States (MS) of the European Union.

Two questionnaire surveys, one for HPV and RV vaccinations, were developed during 2006 and were administered to MSs in 2007. The questionnaires focused on:

- ❖ Status of the decision to introduce the vaccinations
- ❖ Ongoing studies to guide the decision
- ❖ Willingness to exchange developed methodologies and results with other MSs

The questionnaires were completed by MSs on the VENICE website and were analysed by the epidemiologists responsible for WP4.

Among the principle findings of the surveys:

- ❖ Despite the earlier licensing authorisation given to rotavirus vaccines as compared to the first licensed HPV vaccine in the EU, the Expert Advisory Committee in a larger number of MSs has made a recommendation for the introduction of the HPV vaccination.
- ❖ Following the Expert Advisory Committee's recommendation, the National Health Authorities in five countries (Italy, France, Germany, Austria and the UK) have made



the official decision to introduce the HPV vaccination (as of 31st October 2007). The National Health Authorities in three countries (Austria, Belgium and Luxemburg) have made the decision to introduce RV vaccination (as of as of 31st March 2007).

- ❖ Certain MSs report having undertaken scientific and economic studies to inform the decision making process for the introduction of the two vaccinations.
- ❖ In general, MSs expressed an interest in having access to unpublished studies and analysis from other MSs to support their national decision concerning both HPV and rotavirus vaccination introduction. A willingness to share their work was also expressed by the majority of MSs that have carried out studies to support the decision making process in their country.

The results of these surveys have been collated to produce a report for MSs and for the European Commission. A summary of this report will be made available on the public domain of the VENICE website in February 2008. The results have additionally been used as the basis for oral presentations during 2007, a scientific poster at an international conference and a scientific article*.

In order to advance towards the WP4 and VENICE goal of encouraging a rational approach to vaccination policy decision-making processes by promoting the exchange of experience and expertise, a data exchange forum is being developed on the VENICE website. This secure area will facilitate open exchange between the MSs professionals who work in the domain of vaccination. It is anticipated that this forum will be active for MSs during the spring of 2008.

* Link to article: <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ew/2007/070426.asp#1>