Group discussions
working group 2
Immunization
15:20 – 16:45

What is needed to achieve the proposed targets and milestones of the WHO Action plan for the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region?
## Working group 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 MILESTONES</th>
<th>2020 TARGETS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>IMMUNIZATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 90% coverage with three doses of HBV vaccine in countries that implement universal childhood vaccination</td>
<td>• 95% coverage with three doses of HBV vaccine in countries that implement universal childhood vaccination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• National guidelines on risk group HAV and HBV vaccination developed and implemented</td>
<td>• ≤0.5% HBsAg prevalence in vaccinated cohorts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 80% of health care workers vaccinated against HBV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Working group 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 MILESTONES</th>
<th>2020 TARGETS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PREVENTION OF MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HBV</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For countries that implement universal newborn vaccination:</td>
<td>For countries that implement universal newborn vaccination:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 85% coverage with timely HBV birth dose vaccination</td>
<td>• 90% coverage with timely HBV birth dose vaccination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For countries that implement screening of pregnant women and post-exposure prophylaxis of newborns:</td>
<td>For countries that implement screening of pregnant women and post-exposure prophylaxis of newborns:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 85% coverage with screening in pregnant women and 90% coverage with post-exposure prophylaxis in infants born to infected mothers</td>
<td>• 90% coverage with screening in pregnant women and 95% coverage with post-exposure prophylaxis in infants born to infected mothers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Working group 2

• What is the current situation?
• What is achievable to reach the milestones/targets? What are the challenges?
Working group 2

• Immunization is the most advanced – reaching targets 90-95% of the infants/children
• Mandatory system
• What about the ‘underserved’
  • Health visitors – door to door –
  • Roma deliver in hospitals – no issue for birth dose
  • Nurses responsible for immunization
• Catch-up program for ado’s in Albania, not in Macedonia
Working group 2

- No hepatitis A immunization policy yet in Albania, Bulgaria, Rep of Macedonia
- Currently in a transitional situation for hepA epidemiology
- Cfr WHO recommendation in such situation
- What about hepatitis A vaccine recommendation?
- Need for sero-survey in < 15y olds
- Need for a model to calculate the impact of several strategies
- Look at the cost-effectiveness
- Then make a cost-effectiveness analysis to support the decision
- Present to NITAG
Working group 2

• Perinatal transmission
• Birth dose with high coverage, but no HBIG for the moment
• What is the point of screening the mother as part of prenatal care?
  • Do we need to treat the mother in the third trimester with anti-virals?
  • no support for that option!
• Give priority to screen
  • and offer HBIG to exposed newborns
    • Efficacy > 98%
    • or offer HBIG only to those newborns of HBeAg+ mothers
• Need for good coordination between pre-natal care and gynecologist team/ ped team, ...
Working group 2

• Need for a monitoring system for vaccination. Not only for hepB also for other vaccines – an integrated system to keep it efficient
  • There is good will but no database or register for immunization
  • Discrepancy between official data and what is registered
  • Need for linking between registries/coordination
  • Registries are paper-based or increasingly web-based

• Need to have a national plan where responsibilities are highlighted – who is responsible for what (MOH, IPH, ...)
  • So far no coordination yet – so struggling for a web-based system in some countries (already in place in Albania – in extension phase)

• Monitor timing of birth dose, and other infant vaccination
  • To be included in a national plan for some of the countries

• (Set up pro-active campaigns to underline the importance of timely immunization – for HCW as well as for parents/general public)

• (Monitor public/parental perception on vaccination, in particular on birth dose vaccination.)
• Funding of immunization programs needs to be guaranteed!
• Screening program for pregnant women will be challenging – to reach good screening coverage!