

Informal expert consultation to develop a price information sharing platform in the South-East Asia Region

Summary Report

14-15 February 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

Background

Improving equitable access to affordable, quality-assured essential medicines is a key priority for countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region (SEAR). To further this agenda, Member States identified specific actions for regional collaboration on strategic procurement and pricing, as ways to leverage regional capacities and strengths of regional markets. Specifically, information sharing on medicines' prices and quality was identified as one concrete action to move towards strategic procurement and was endorsed by Member States during the 70th Regional Committee (Sept 2017). Various global and regional platforms exist, including the Price Information Exchange for Medicines (PIEMEDS). The informal expert consultation was organized with procurement experts from India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste to share experiences on using price intelligence and discuss a price information sharing platform for the Region.

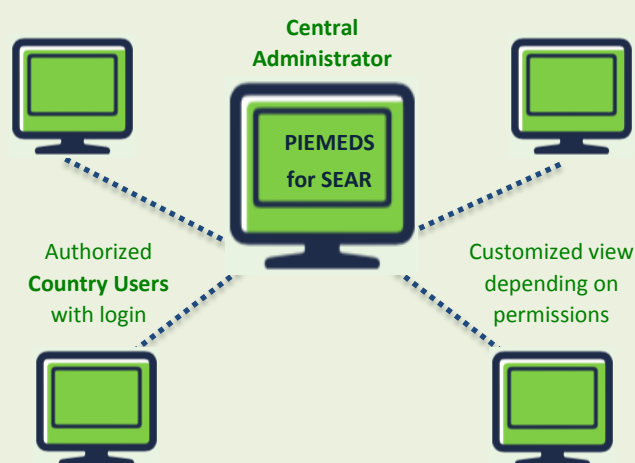
Informal Consultation Objectives

1. Discuss and develop a regional plan for medicine price information sharing in the South-East Asia Region;
2. Review existing publicly available medicine price information sources in the Region;
3. Discuss the key elements to capture for a price data report and process of sharing information via a regional platform with demonstration of uploading data and using visualizations and price comparisons;
4. Develop a draft action plan for the implementation of a price information sharing platform.

MEETING DECISIONS - VOLUNTARY INFORMATION SHARING FOR MEDICINES PROCUREMENT PRICES VIA A WEB-BASED PLATFORM

Key principles of collaboration:

1. **Build on what already exists**
Leverage existing publicly available public procurement price information and PIEMEDS web-based platform
2. **Start with small but concrete steps**
Share existing raw procurement price data via PIEMEDS and start price comparison analysis for specific therapeutic groups
3. **Keep collaboration voluntary**
Official invitation to SEAR Member States
4. **Build trust**
Invite comments for continuous review & improvement



Discussions

This meeting was held to learn from existing global and regional initiatives to share medicine price information and develop a fit-for-purpose platform for price information sharing for the South-East Asia Region. Procurement experts from five South-East Asia countries shared their perspectives and experiences, and discussed how to better use procurement price information to support price negotiations and make their countries' make public procurement systems more efficient and flexible. There was a consensus to use and further develop the existing Price Information Exchange for Medicines (PIEMEDS), hosted by the Asia eHealth Information Network (AeHIN) and invite voluntary participation from the 11 Member States via their national or state-level public procurement agencies.

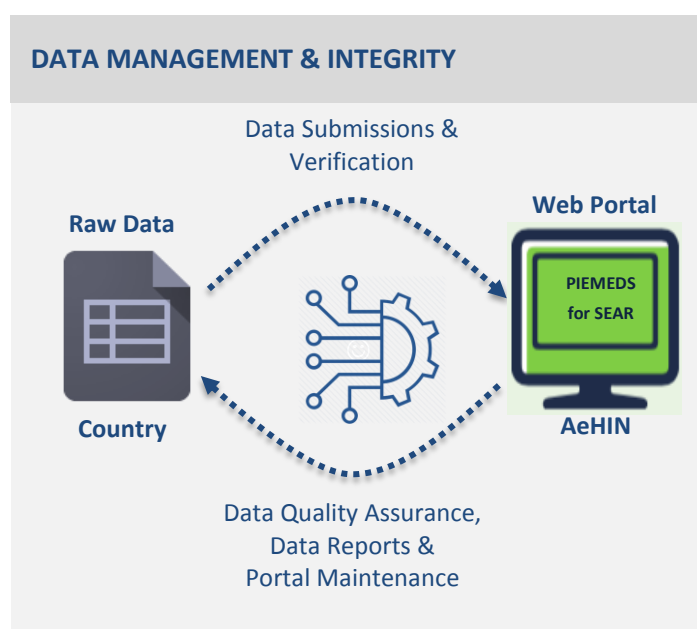


Developing the price information exchange for medicines (PIEMEDS) into a fit-for-purpose platform for the South-East Asia Region

Goals	Desired features	Criteria for Data Elements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support price information sharing and price transparency Support price negotiations Provide evidence for policy Use to monitor impact of pricing policies and interventions Develop regional reference prices; Assist national policy making on development of local pharmaceutical industry Link to medicine quality information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for all Easy to operate by anyone Source must be authentic Regularly updated data Regular verification of data through agreed process Availability of a large number of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulations Brands Manufacturers / suppliers and companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical additional information for interpretation of price data (e.g. total quantity procured) Easily available from all countries Easily added/or already exists in current country data systems Standard terminology (or in form that can be standardized i.e. Thai Medicines Terminology (TMT)) Process of ensuring data integrity and data verification is ensured

Key Data Elements

- Generic name
- Product name (brand name)
- Strength and dosage form
- Pack size
- Pack price in local currency (platform converts USD per latest exchange rate)
- Quantity procured
- Manufacturer
- Supplier
- Procuring facility name
- Incoterms (what is included in price)
- For long term agreements (LTA)
 - Use same price within period of LTA
 - Submit quantities & date of deliveries
 - Report rate contract used (quantity & rate)
- In the future, consider adding:* manufacturing date, date of expiry, batch number, link to quality related info.



Immediate Next Steps:

- All eleven SEAR countries to be officially invited by WHO SEARO to participate in voluntary price data sharing via PIEMEDS by 15 March 2018.
- Countries to confirm willingness to share medicines price information by 15 April 2018, and identify focal point(s) for further communication regarding regular upload and sharing of procurement prices.
- Countries to share web-links of already existing public information about procurement prices, quality and supplier information. Web-links to be collected and displayed via WHO SEARO Medicines webpage portal by 30 April 2018.
- Country data submissions initiated to central PIEMEDS desktop by April 2018 followed by agreed review process.
- Asia eHealth Information Network (AeHIN) to organize regional workshop on standard medicine terminology for users and IT experts Q4 2018 as side event of next AeHIN conference in Colombo Sri Lanka, with contributions from Sri Lanka MDSC on experiences of automated system.
- SEARO to perform and share draft report of NCD medicines prices comparison by 1 August 2018 for comment. First short report on regional medicines price comparisons to be published Q4 2018.