



Lancet EMP Newsletter

Lancet Commission on Essential Medicines Policies

Countdown to 2016

Welcome to the October 2015 newsletter of the Lancet Commission on Essential Medicine Policies

Recent Updates:

Report of the 2015 meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines

The report summarizes the Committee's decisions in relation to 77 applications received for the purpose of updating the WHO Model Lists of Essential Medicines and Essential Medicines for Children. The report is distinct from previous ones in that it provides extensive details about each application and the decision-making process. The report can be found at: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/189763/1/9789241209946_eng.pdf?ua=1

For more information about the essential medicine selection decisions and its implications on policies, please view the commentary published by some Lancet EMP Commissioners, Gray et al in The Lancet: [http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(15\)00514-0.pdf](http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(15)00514-0.pdf)

The Lancet EMP Commission Meeting in Amsterdam, November 2015

Lancet EMP Commissioners, external reviewers and The Lancet senior editor will meet in Amsterdam on November 5th and 6th to discuss the first draft of the 2016 report. The two-day meeting has the objective to incorporate comments provided by the external reviewers and commissioners, and agree on the recommendations. Stay tuned for more updated information @EMPCommission

The Lancet Youth Commission is conducting an online consultation

The Lancet Youth Commission consists of a social media consultation and a survey. For more information please see Link: <http://bit.ly/1VKVjnK>

Recent Publications

- Edwards D J, Coppens DGM, Prasad TL, Rook LA, Iyer JK. [Access to Hepatitis C Medicines](#). *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, October 2015. Online Article ID: BLT.15.157784
- Gray AL, Wirtz VJ, 't Hoen EFM, Reich MR, Hogerzeil HV. [Essential Medicines are still essential](#). *Lancet* 2015; 386: 1601-1602.
- Khatib R, et al.. [Availability and affordability of cardiovascular disease medicines and their effect on use in high-income, middle-income, and low-income countries: an analysis of the PURE study data](#). *Lancet* 2015; Online first. See also the related comments by Niessen LW, Khan J, [Universal Access to Medicines](#). *Lancet* 2015; Online first.
- Path. [Diabetes Supplies: Are they there when needed?](#) Seattle: PATH; 2015. http://www.path.org/publications/files/NCD_nes_exec_summary.pdf

Upcoming Events and News relevant to Essential Medicine Policies

- Kenya to be the first country to launch [Novartis Access](#) program providing access to 15 medicines for non-communicable diseases.
- WHO Essential Medicines and Health Products Related Events
http://www.portal.pmnch.org/medicines/areas/quality_safety/safety_efficacy/med_safety_events/en/
- 3rd Annual [International Conference on Clinical Pharmacy](#). December 7-9, 2015. Atlanta, USA.

Spotlight



Peter Stephens, Commissioner of The Lancet Commission on Essential Medicines Policies
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Peter Stephens, PhD, has worked for IMS Health for 17 years, and is affiliated with the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmaceutical Policy Analysis, Utrecht Institute for Pharmaceutical Sciences (UIPS), Utrecht, The Netherlands. He has previously worked for a pharmaceutical advertising agency and as a representative and brand manager at Beecham Research. He received a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Pharmaceutical Policy at Utrecht University in the Netherlands in 2015, a Master's Degree with Distinction in Marketing in 1995 and a Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology in 1985. Peter leads IMS' collaboration with Medicines for Malaria Venture to build the national regulatory authorities' capacity in Zambia and Uganda to collect, interpret and use pharmaceutical data to aid policy development and pharmacovigilance. Peter works with colleagues at IMS with UNITAID to help build a market intelligence system that will provide comprehensive access to timely, high quality information in the product areas in which UNITAID works. He has worked extensively on IMS' systems to protect doctor-patient confidentiality and became a Core Member of the UK Anonymisation Network. Peter works with academic institutions, government bodies and multilateral agencies to help understand the impact of pharmaceutical policies on access to medicines, with a recent research focus on the impact of gender, age and deprivation on access to medicines in both developed and lower income countries. Projects have included helping the World Health Organisation track the impact of the economic crisis on the consumption of medicines, and work for a joint Department of Health, NHS and Industry group to understand the extent and reasons for variation in uptake of medicines recommended by the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence.

Recent publications by Peter Stephens:

Stephens P, Thomson D. The Cancer Drug Fund 1 year on—success or failure. *Lancet Oncol.* 2012;13(8):754-7.

Stephens P. Vaccine R&D: Past performance is no guide to the future. *Vaccine* 2014; 32(19):2139-42.

Stephens P, Leufkens HG. The impact of patient and doctor characteristics on the prescribing of low cost generic formulations in Brazil. *Journal of Generic Medicines* 2015; 11 (3-4); 108-115.

Stephens P, Chikh K, Leufkens HG. Prescribing of antipsychotics in people with dementia in acute general hospitals in England: 2010-2012. *European Geriatric Medicine* 2014; 5(6): Pages 394–398.

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