Consultation on potential Ebola therapies and vaccines
4-5 September 2014
Geneva, Starling Hotel

Background:
In response to the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, on 11 August 2014, WHO convened a panel of medical ethicists, scientific experts, and lay people from the affected countries to consider and assess the ethical implications for clinical decision-making of the potential use of unapproved interventions. In the particular circumstances of this outbreak, and provided certain conditions are met, the panel reached consensus that it is ethical to offer unproven interventions with as yet unknown efficacy and adverse effects, as potential treatment or prevention.

Purpose:
This meeting is being organized to discuss lead experimental treatments and vaccines for Ebola (including potential risks and benefits, availability in the short and long term, potential use and barriers for use) and key considerations for deployment in West Africa, clinical testing, use, ethics, regulation and data collection.

In addition to providing an overview of the current status of development of potential therapies and vaccines, the meeting will address the following priority questions:

- What should be the overall objectives of a plan for evaluation and use of unregistered interventions (therapies and vaccines) as a response to the current outbreak and in preparation for the future?
- What are the most important actions to ensure successful evaluation and use (if appropriate) for any of these investigational interventions?
- What kind of support is required to ensure successful implementation of proposed plans for the evaluation and use of these interventions (therapies and vaccines)?
Draft Agenda

Thursday 4 September

08:00-09:00  Registration

Session Chair: Anarfi Asamo-Baah

09:00-09:10  Welcome remarks, Anarfi Asamo-Baah

09:10-09:20  Objectives of meeting, expected outcomes, Marie-Paule Kieny

09:20-09:45  Situation update and trends of the current Ebola epidemic, Sylvie Briand

09:45-10:15  Ebola diagnosis and challenges with the evaluation of new interventions, Amadou Sall

10:15-10:45  Coffee

10:45-12:30  Country perspectives
  - Sierra Leone, TBD
  - Nigeria, Abdulsalami Nasidi
  - Canada, Theresa Tam
  - Switzerland, Daniel Koch
  - China, Fu Gao

12:30-14:00  Lunch

14:00-15:30  Presentation on overview of lead experimental products and product specific considerations, Michael Kurilla
  - Immunoglobulins
  - Immune modulators
  - Small molecule drugs
  - Vaccines

15:30-16:00  Coffee

Session Chair: Marie-Paule Kieny

16:00-16:30  Presentations of key considerations for decision makers, Fred Hayden

16:30-17:30  Overview of ethical issues for consideration and presentation of ethical frameworks, Oyewale Tomori

17:30-18:00  Discussion

18:00-18:15  Wrap up of day 1

18:30  Cocktail reception
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Friday 5 September

Session Chair: Oyewale Tomori

09:00-09:30 Overview of regulatory issues for consideration, Helen Byomire Ndagije
09:30-10:00 Discussion
10:00-10:30 Overview of practical issues for implementation, Armand Sprecher
10:30-11:00 Discussion
11:00-11:30 Coffee
11:30-12:00 Overview of issues for assessment, risk mitigation and communication, Ambrose Isah
12:00-12:30 Discussion
12:30-14:00 Lunch

Session Chair: Jeremy Farrar

14:00-15:30 Structured discussion
  1. What should be the overall objectives of a plan for evaluation and use of unregistered interventions (therapies and vaccines) as a response to the current outbreak and in preparation for the future?
  2. What are the most important actions to ensure successful evaluation and use (if appropriate) for any of these investigational interventions?
  3. What kind of support is required to ensure successful implementation of proposed plans for the evaluation and use of these interventions (therapies and vaccines)?

15:30-16:00 Coffee
16:00-16:30 Preparedness for prophylaxis and therapeutics for future epidemics
16:30-17:00 Wrap up, next steps, meeting closure