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Dear colleagues

We are pleased to share with you the April edition of the CPME Monthly Bulletin with the outcomes of the Executive Committee the meeting on 21 April 2022.

The Executive Committee decided on a CPME response to Council of Europe's draft Recommendation on equitable access to medical treatment and equipment in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and other situations of scarce resources. The EC decided to continue lobbying activities on antimicrobial resistance and agreed to a concept note on an EU4Health project to increase the healthcare workforce's digital skills. We also took note of the CPME and the Coalition for Vaccination activities for the WHO (European) Immunization Week, including a [joint statement](#).

We hope you find this edition of the Bulletin informative.

Dr Christiaan Keijzer

CPME President



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – 21 APRIL 2022

Internal Affairs

Update on rebranding and Website

- ▶ The Executive Committee took note of the progress and agreed to make rotating editorial pieces from the Vice Presidents on a rotating basis for the next four CPME magazine issues.

Policies

Council of Europe recommendation on equitable access to medical treatment and equipment in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and other situations of scarce resources

- ▶ The Executive Committee decided on the CPME response as amended and to send it to the Council of Europe. The Executive Committee also addressed the role of population health and health inequalities as well as industry's role in preventing scarcity

CPME has been invited by the Council of Europe to provide comments to the draft Recommendation on equitable access to medical treatment and equipment in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and other situations of scarce resources prepared by the Council of Europe's [Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health \(CDBIO\)](#). The objective of this consultation is to provide common principles and assist policymakers in ensuring equitable access in case of shortages and scarcity of treatment and equipment while safeguarding human rights. While Council of Europe activities are not the primary focus of CPME activities, it is proposed to submit a brief consultation response which primarily consists of sharing the existing CPME policies on health inequalities and on medicine shortages as well as the outcomes of the CPME members survey on triage protocols in the context of COVID-19.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – 21 APRIL 2022

Antimicrobial Resistance Campaign

- ▶ The Executive Committee decided to continue lobbying activities while also investing into a communication project with EURACTIV

The [feedback period](#) has opened for the list of antibiotics reserved for human use only. The draft list is now open for comment until 17 May 2022, and after the closing of this date, the list will be discussed at the EMA's committee on veterinarian medicinal products. CPME and other health organizations affirm that the current list proposed by the EMA falls short of prioritizing human health as well as concrete action on preventing and reducing antimicrobial resistance.

Workshop EU4Health call for CPD programmes for doctors on skills

- ▶ The Executive Committee agreed to the concept note and decided to send the joint letter as amended

On 4 April, CPME held a workshop with interested partners to discuss a joint EU project to increase the healthcare workforce's digital skills as well as how to position them to become enablers for improving care in different areas. Prospective partners include FVE, CED, PGEU, and UEMS.

WHO Immunization Week

- ▶ The EC took note of the CPME and the Coalition for Vaccination planning for the WHO (European) Immunization Week which takes place on 24–30 April

WHO/ Europe holds an annual [World Immunization week](#) communication campaign highlighting the importance of vaccination. The theme for this year is "Long Life for All" which examines the history of vaccination and its numerous success stories. CPME leads the [Coalition for Vaccination](#) and is participating in the WHO Immunization week.

The Coalition for Vaccination's Immunization Week campaign

The Coalition for Vaccination, co-chaired by CPME, participates in the annual WHO European Immunization Week, taking place on 24–30 April 2022. On 25 April, the Coalition released a joint statement and invited also national medical associations to participate in the campaign. The statement and the campaign materials can be found on the [Coalition website](#).

The concept of value should not be misused to justify high medicine prices

We disseminated a [statement](#) strongly oppose any pricing strategy which misuses the concept of value to justify high prices of medicines, attracting media and online attention. Read a broader discussion on the misuse of the concept of value by the pharmaceutical industry on our website [here](#).

Expanded role for the pharmaceutical industry in healthcare delivery is against patient interests

Amid the pharmaceutical industry's attempts to expand its involvement and commercial influence on healthcare delivery, we disseminated a [statement](#) cautioning that it should never become a part of the decision-making process in the treatment course.

Policy on Health Inequalities

Our new [policy](#) on Health Inequalities provides recommendations on health systems' impact on health inequalities, the impact of social determinants, and doctors' role in reducing health inequalities.

Panel on the Role of Ethic Committees in the European Health Data Space

On 25 May, we will host a panel on the 'Role of Ethics Committees in the European Health Data Space' during the 15th International Conference on Computers, Privacy and Data Protection ([CPDP 2022](#)). A [flyer](#) provides background on the topic to kickstart the discussion.

CPME accepted as member of EMA's Healthcare Professionals Working Party 2022-2025

The Healthcare Professionals' Working Party ([HCPWP](#)) provides a platform for exchange of information and discussion of issues of common interest between the European Medicines Agency and healthcare professionals. CPME has been accepted as a member for the mandate from 2022 to 2025. A draft workplan for 2022-2025 will be adopted at a meeting on 1-2 June.

MONITORING

Ukraine

Additional €50 million for humanitarian aid for Ukraine

The EU is [investing](#) an additional €50 million in humanitarian funds to help individuals impacted by the war, with €45 million going to Ukraine and €5 million going to Moldova. The EU's overall humanitarian aid spending for the war now stands at €143 million. Emergency medical care, access to good drinking water and sanitation, housing and protection, monetary assistance, and help against gender-based violence will all be provided with this extra financing.

Commission set aside €9 million to help Ukrainian refugees with mental health issues

The Commission has [allocated](#) €9 million from the EU4Health program to help Ukrainian refugees who require immediate mental health and trauma care. The International Federation of Red Cross Societies and non-governmental organisations will help healthcare professionals in their work with this increased EU financing. It will also provide mental health treatments such as psychological first aid, triage, psychological trauma assistance, and counselling in their native language.

WHO records 100th attack on health care in Ukraine

On 7 April, WHO has [verified](#) more than 100 attacks on health care since the start of the war on 24 February. The attacks so far have claimed 73 lives and injured 51. Of the current total of 103 attacks, 89 have impacted health facilities and 13 have impacted transport, including ambulances.

MONITORING

Ukraine

WHO to support Ukraine in addressing immediate health challenges and health system reconstruction

On World Health Day in Lviv, Ukraine, WHO Regional Director for Europe Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge [visited](#) health facilities and heard first-hand from health workers and patients who have faced some of the most testing circumstances imaginable amid the ongoing war that erupted on 24 February. During a meeting with the Ukrainian Minister for Health, Dr Liashko, Dr Kluge reiterated WHO's continued support for the country to address immediate health challenges and sustain long-term reconstruction efforts. The Regional Director emphasized WHO's pledge to help the country's health system recover from the serious damage by working with national authorities and partners to "build back better".

WHO organizes training of health workers to deal with casualty surges from war in Ukraine

WHO at the request of the Moldovan Ministry of Health [organized](#) a 3-day course on mass casualty management (MCM), developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden. A total of 32 surgeons, traumatologists and facility managers from 13 hospitals benefitted from the training. WHO also began rolling out the course in Ukraine. The first participants were staff of an ambulance substation in the Lviv region. Training paramedics in this way will allow them to provide appropriate assistance to victims even before they have reached hospitals. WHO has engaged Ukrainian emergency physicians to deliver the training and is planning to deliver more sessions across the country.

MONITORING

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

Feedback period opened for list of antimicrobial medicines reserved for humans

From 19 April – 17 May 2022 the feedback period of the [public consultation](#) on the list of antimicrobial medicines reserved for treating humans has opened for public comment.

During a [structured dialogue](#) with the ENVI Committee, Commissioner Kyriakides received criticism of EMA's advice on reserving certain antimicrobials for human use only. She responded by recommending we rely on EMA scientific advice, that the list forms the first science-based assessment of all antimicrobials globally. With regards to colistin, she said it currently remains essential in treating life threatening infections in animals

Commission launches the Digital Tool for the EU AMR One Health Network

The Commission has launched the Digital Tool of the [EU Platform on Antimicrobial Resistance](#). The scope of the Tool is providing the Platform with an instrument which can facilitate communication and sharing knowledge between the EU AMR One Health Network members.. The Tool is meant to be an instrument for stakeholders, Commission services, Member States and EU agencies to keep collaborating as well as continuing discussions in-between meetings of the EU One Health Network on AMR. Access will be allowed through an EU Login. If you don't have an EU Login, you can create one now by going on the [EU Login Main Page](#) and follow the instructions. To access the Digital Tool and start working on it, you should click on the button "Access/request access to My network". Then, connect with your EU Login credentials and discover this new Platform.

MONITORING

Brexit

Council of EU passes law to secure ongoing supply of medicines in NI, CY, IE, and MT

On 12 April, the Council [adopted](#) a [directive](#) and a [regulation](#) to ensure continued supply of medicines to Northern Ireland, and to Cyprus, Ireland and Malta. The aim of the directive is to preserve the uninterrupted supply of medicinal products for human use in Northern Ireland. It will also, exceptionally and for a transitional period of three years, allow medicinal products from the United Kingdom to be placed on the market in Ireland, Malta and Cyprus under derogations from the requirement for authorisation holders to be established in the European Union. The regulation is closely linked to the directive and is aimed at ensuring the supply of investigational medicinal products to the same markets. The measures will apply retroactively from 1 January 2022.

European Parliament

MEPs adopt Data Governance Act

On 6 April 2022, the Parliament [adopted](#) the Data Governance Act which intends to increase data sharing in the EU so that businesses and start-ups have more data to work with when developing new goods and services. The new guidelines are designed to increase confidence in data sharing by making it safer and easier while still maintaining compliance with data protection legislation. This will be accomplished by using technological solutions like anonymization and data pooling. They will enable to construction of shared European data space in key sectors such as health, environment, energy, agriculture, governmental administration, and others.

MONITORING

WHO – WHO/Europe

Ukraine to receive tech from WHO mRNA technology transfer hub

Ukrainian manufacturer Darnitsa will receive support from the global WHO mRNA technology transfer hub in South Africa. The manufacturer was [evaluated](#) by WHO and found to have the potential to absorb the mRNA technology to produce vaccines and potentially other health products.

Acute hepatitis of unknown aetiology – UK and NI

On 5 April 2022, WHO was [notified](#) of 10 cases of severe acute hepatitis of unknown aetiology in children under the age of 10 years, across central Scotland. By 8 April, 74 cases had been identified in the United Kingdom.

WHO recommends COVID-19 therapy and calls for wide geographical distribution

WHO [recommended](#) nirmatrelvir and ritonavir, sold under the name Paxlovid, as the best therapeutic choice for high-risk patients to date. The recommendation stems from new data from two randomized controlled trials involving 3078 patients demonstrating that the risk of hospitalization is reduced by 85% following this treatment. In a high-risk group (over 10% risk of hospitalization), that means 84 fewer hospitalizations per 1000 patients. With concerns on availability and lack of price transparency, WHO fears that Paxlovid will become a major challenge for low- and middle-income countries. WHO strongly recommends Pfizer to make its pricing and deals more transparent and to enlarge the geographical scope of its licence with the Medicines Patent Pool so that more generic manufacturers may start to produce the medicine and make it available faster at affordable prices.

MONITORING

Vaccination

WHO launches online courses address key vaccination topics

The World Health Organization has developed a suite of online courses addressing key vaccination topics on its free learning platform OpenWHO.org. Courses are available in national and local languages and can be taken at each learner's own pace, all at once or across several sittings. A full list of the COVID-19 vaccine courses and additional topics is available [here](#).

Digital Health

X-eHealth professional training session: Data Exchange For Better Health

With the aim to introduce its participants to the digital skills needed to exchange medical images and hospital discharge reports in health systems across Europe, the X-eHealth project will carry out a professional training session aimed at Health Professionals. If you are interested, please fill out the [Application Form](#).

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