

Third WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices

Symposium on Injection Safety

Private Organizations for Patient Safety Injection Safety

**12 May 2017,
Geneva, Switzerland**

Infection Prevention and Control global unit
Service Delivery and Safety department
World Health Organization
Geneva, Switzerland



Abbreviations

AD	auto-disable syringe
ADG	Assistant Director-General
AMR	antimicrobial resistance
HIS	Health Systems and Innovation cluster
IPC	infection prevention and control
IS	injection safety
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
MOH	Ministry of Health
NGO	nongovernmental organization
POPS	Private Organizations for Patient Safety
PQS	WHO prequalification standard
RUP	reuse-prevention syringe
SDS	Service Delivery and Safety department
SIP	sharps injury prevention
SIGN	Safe Injection Global Network
UN	United Nations
WHO	World Health Organization

1. Summary

A first meeting of the POPS IS initiative, in September 2016, hosted by the IPC global unit at WHO headquarters, was attended by manufacturers from 14 different companies.

The purpose of this follow-up meeting, in May 2017, was to formally inaugurate the POPS Injection Safety initiative, to seek industry input on its sustainability and also receive feedback from participants and experts on sustaining progress made in injection safety. There were 31 participants from 11 countries. In a separate meeting involving industry participants who had signed up to the initiative, collaboration, future projects and working style and during which POPS IS projects were discussed.

POPS Injection Safety was formally launched by the Assistant Director-General Dr Marie-Paule Kieny, once again emphasizing the critical role of manufacturers and that of medical devices in making injections safe. Just like POPS Hand Hygiene, POPS Injection Safety can contribute to improving patient safety around the world.

The progress made in injection safety, particularly in three pilot countries (Egypt, India and Uganda) was shared with the participants. The perspective of patient associations playing a role in injection safety was also highlighted. Manufacturers appreciated the long awaited launch of POPS IS and those who had not yet joined the initiative were keen to find out more about how they could become active participants.

The meeting with manufacturers who have signed up discussed the web-based platform and how manufacturers and WHO could access it and interact. Future projects discussed included training of health workers, use of newly developed injection safety communication materials, training and educational tools, digital marketing and building the capacity of private distributors on injection safety in order to better integrate injection safety into the national health system.

2. Background

The injection safety policy released by WHO in February 2015 recommends the exclusive use of auto-disable/reuse-prevention/sharps injury prevention (AD/RUP/SIP) syringes for most medical injections. It also recommends that all WHO Member States, particularly those with a problem of unsafe injections, to switch to their exclusive use by 2020. It furthermore recommends the provision of adequate training on use of these syringes, safe and rational injection practices, but also on ensuring appropriate disposal of all used sharps. Part of the strategy is to engage the syringe manufacturing industry in the uptake and implementation of the key elements of the policy since the industry will have a critical role to play in ensuring the supply of RUPs and SIPs to countries and regions.

To translate the new policy into practice, the SDS department is leading the development of a global injection safety multimodal campaign. Since 2012, the Private Organizations for Patient Safety (POPS) initiative has been successfully working with the industry whose business and social responsibility focus on supporting the global agenda of preventing harm resulting from unsafe health care practices. The POPS initiative has provided the opportunity to align messages, enhance standards, ethically promote safe devices/products and approve projects enabling collaboration between WHO and industry, primarily aimed at improving systems and knowledge.

POPS Injection Safety (POPS IS) is envisioned on the same model, namely one which allows interaction between the private sector/industry stakeholders, such as the manufacturers and distributors of safety-engineered syringes, and WHO. The purpose is to establish a coherent means of communicating and sharing information in line with WHO recommendations, and through various projects, to enhance injection safety by making these safer injection devices products available and accessible across all parts of the world.

The goal of this collaboration is to benefit all recipients of injections, but particularly those receiving injections in developing countries, where the need is the greatest and most urgent.

This meeting with industry representatives was planned as the first step to gathering feedback on the initiative's feasibility, continuity and sustainability.

3. Objectives of the meeting

- To inaugurate POPS Injection Safety and discuss ways to sustain progress and introduce RUPs in health system.
- To seek industry support on sustainability of POPS IS.
- To discuss future projects with all participants to have joined POPS IS.

4. Expected outcomes

The main purpose of the meeting was to receive practical feedback and discuss ways of making POPS IS successful and sustainable, for the overall benefit of injection safety and the improvement of patient safety.

5. Meeting participants

There were 33 participants representing industry, WHO headquarters, UNAIDS, WHO country offices, patient associations and injection safety experts and advocates.

6. Welcome and introductions

The Coordinator (Team Leader) of the IPC Global Unit, Dr Benedetta Allegranzi, chaired the meeting and so welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. She presented the agenda and informed participants that there would be an open meeting part, and following the lunch break, a separate meeting, with manufacturers who had already signed up for POPS IS. Following that, all participants introduced themselves.

Dr Allegranzi informed the audience that the aim of the POPS Injection Safety Initiative was to develop and maintain a protected web-based platform to allow interactions between private sector/industry stakeholders, such as companies that develop, manufacture and/or distribute safety-engineered injection devices or components thereof, and WHO. The purpose of this is to establish a coherent means of communicating and sharing information, in line with WHO recommendations, as well as through projects to enhance the availability and accessibility of safe injection products across the whole world.

Dr Edward Kelley, Director, Service Delivery and Safety department then provided an overview of the universal health coverage framework. He said that in order to help countries build and strengthen their health systems, providing quality services based on the needs of people and communities, we collect and disseminate the best evidence to help health service providers deliver the safest, most effective care throughout a person's life. The IPC Global Unit is part of SDS and injection safety is one of the mandates of WHO and IPC. Since 2015, when the injection safety guidelines were launched, the injection safety team has been working on different fronts including in pilot countries, developing a comprehensive communication package, revamping the web pages and providing ongoing technical support to countries, as well as other departments within WHO.

7. Summary of inaugural session

Four key presentations were given prior to the official launch of POPS IS.

Ms. Lisa Hedman, in her presentation on working with industry, described the POPS working model with its core function, a web-based platform for information sharing maintained and coordinated by WHO. The companies sign up and pay. The 'closed web space' for bidirectional and early sharing of information. The project proposals to be

created from shared thinking/known gaps in the field with a focus on system change, education and at times on new research. Outputs she pointed out were, annual reports which would also allow evaluation of the activity. An actual example of project that was shared included placement of alcohol based hand rub bottles in health facilities in countries that previously had no access. This resulted in increased awareness, safety and overall system strengthening based on a multi agency involvement.

Dr Alaa Hashish from WHO's Egypt Country Office provided an update on progress made on the injection safety pilot project in the country. Egypt successfully completed a baseline assessment in eight governorates of the country in 2016, assessing 16 MOH hospitals, 16 private and 6 university hospitals, 48 primary health centres and 48 private pharmacies. A household survey was also conducted in rural and urban settings. WHO Tool C which is used globally for injection safety assessment was used as the key source to develop a similar tool in Arabic. In 98% of facilities, syringes and needles were taken from a new packet for each new injection; 90% of facilities had no overflowing sharps containers. However, only 35% of facilities prepared injections on a clean and dedicated table. The estimated number of injection per person per year was calculated as 5.9, in the assessment. WHO and MOH are now closely working on developing an injection safety policy for the country which will include use of safety engineered syringes.

Dr Arshad Altaf from the SDS department at WHO headquarters, provided an update on progress made in India and Uganda. Using Tool C, Uganda conducted a baseline assessment in 2017, covering 192 public and private health facilities in 31 districts. No evidence of attempts at sterilization of disposable injection equipment was found. No loose disposable injection equipment outside of packaging was found in 77% of facilities. The average number of injections per person per year was 3.3. Stock outs of injection supplies in the last six months were reported from 47% public and 77% private facilities. MoHFW in India identified the State of Punjab as the pilot state for the pilot intervention. Technical advisory groups have been formed at central and state level in the country which have been tasked with overseeing progress of this injection safety project. The Health Department in Punjab State has since started the process of introducing safety engineered syringes into its health system. Forty model injection safety centres will also be established at district level health facilities, as well as in nursing and other training institutes. These centres will also serve as resource and training centres.

Ms Evelyn McKnight of HonoReform gave a patient perspective of unsafe injections and shared her own story of how she contracted hepatitis C due to unsafe injection practices in a health facility in a developed country. She became an injection safety advocate and has been working closely with government and nongovernmental organizations in the United States, sensitizing health workers and patients to all aspects of injection safety. She emphasized the need to sustain progress made and why adopting to WHO guidelines on injection safety (which advocates for safety engineered syringes, rational use of injections,

avoiding contamination, raising patient awareness and appropriate sharps management) is so important. She stated that POPS Injection Safety is a step in the right direction and working with key stakeholders such as the industry will certainly help to move the injection safety agenda forward at the global level.

Dr Marie-Paule Kieny, Assistant Director-General, HIS cluster, WHO, then officially launched the POPS Injection Safety initiative. She highlighted that POPS Injection Safety is an important additional step forward on the road to greater injection safety. The initiative provides an option where collaboration and experiences can be shared with the manufacturing industry for the greater good. Stimulating innovation and working towards the common goal of promoting injection safety through POPS will leverage our mutual efforts and expand our achievements. POPS is a unique platform that WHO has only previously used for hand hygiene, and with great success. Its purpose is to improve health outcomes by engaging in the promotion of patient safety. It has a track record of success in the area of hand hygiene and we are looking forward to a similar success as we launch POPS Injection Safety. The POPS platform gives us the opportunity to share information in a neutral and transparent way with those injection safety device manufacturers that meet certain criteria and who make specific collaboration commitments.

8. Summary of key discussion of meeting with POPS IS participants

After summarizing the discussion of the earlier session, the participants were provided an overview of the POPS Injection Safety web-based platform. The platform has sub folder including companies, education and systems page. It was suggested to add two more folders on 'media' and 'communication'. The participants were briefed that there are two types of spaces. The "companies" folder is a closes space which is accessible to WHO and the participant company only. While the rest of the folders are open access and all participants can see whatever is posted on these folders. Brief discussion was held on future projects which included digital marketing, organizing training sessions using the WHO communication and training material and building capacity of private distributors on injection safety, in order to integrate safety engineered syringes in national health systems. It was also decided that a WebEx in future will be organized to help participants access the platform.

Annex A: Meeting agenda

**Third WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices
Symposium on Injection Safety
Launch of Private Organizations for Patient Safety Injection Safety**

12 May 2017, 11:15-12:30

Geneva, Switzerland

Venue: Salle 7 Geneva International Conference Centre

Agenda

Session Chair: Dr Benedetta Allegranzi

Timing		
11:15-11:20	Opening remarks by Director, SDS	E. Kelley (5 min)
11:20-11:35	Overview of the WHO Injection Safety Policy and Implementation Strategy	E. Kelley/B. Allegranzi (15 min)
11:35-11:45	Working together with industry under POPS Injection Safety	L. Hedman (10 min)
11:45-11:55	Achievements and challenges in Egypt	A. Hashish (10 min)
11:55-12:05	Achievements and challenges in India and Uganda	A. Altaf (10 min)
12:05-12:15	Sustaining progress achieved in injection safety	E. McKnight (10 min)
12:15-12:30	Launch of POPS IS and closing remarks by Assistant Director-General, HIS	M-P. Kieny (15 min)

POPS Injection Safety participants meeting

12 May 2017, 13:30-16:30

Geneva, Switzerland

Venue: Salle 7 Geneva International Conference Centre

Agenda

Timing	Activity	Responsible
13:30-13:50	Introductions and opening remarks	L. Hedman
13:50-14:20	POPS Injection Safety working style	B. Allegranzi
14:20-14:40	Web platform	A. Altaf
14:40-15:10	Discussion on future projects	All
15:10-16:00	Open feedback	
16:00-16:30	Future plans	

Annex B: List of participants in alphabetical order

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Launch of Private Organizations for Patients Safety Injection Safety
Geneva, Switzerland
12 May 2017**

List of participants**Arthur Berli**

Machine and Packing System (MPS AG)
Switzerland

Jolanda Berli

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Particia Coffey

PATH A catalyst for Global Health
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Amr Kandeel

Ministry of Health and Population
Egypt

Renuka Gadde

Becton Dickenson
USA

Sandra Gaisch Hiller

Baxter World Trade sprl
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Mohamed Khalil

International Company for Medical
Necessities
Egypt

John Lloyd

Independent
France

Evelyn McKnight

HonoReform Foundation
USA

Steve McKnight

HonoReform Foundation
USA

Villa Monica

Kahle Automation
Italy

Rajiv Nath

Hindustan Medical Devices (HMD)
India

Mauro Pantaleo

P&P Patents and Technologies S.r.l
Italy

Cristian Rapparini

Risco Biologico
Brazil

MD Abdul Razzaq

Joint Venture Medical Industry (JMI) Group
Bangladesh

Celeste Sandoval

UNAIDS
Switzerland

Gene Saxon

PATH A Catalyst for Global Health
USA

Garance Upham

World Alliance Against Antibiotic
Resistance
(WAAAR)
France

Susan Wilburn

Healthcare Without Harm
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Arabella Hayter

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