



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE
Advancing Hospice & Palliative Care Worldwide

Concept Paper: Three Part IAHPCColloquium

Series Title: Ensuring safe and effective access to essential palliative care medicines during the COVID-19 pandemic and thereafter: Learning how to become effective advocates.

Problem Statement: Access to essential palliative care medicines (EPCMs) is inadequate in more than 80% of the world, a situation that is worsening in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The INCB, WHO, and UNODC issued a Joint Statement on August 14 directing member states to ensure adequate access during the pandemic. Implementation of that directive is a challenge, as few medical, pharmacy, and nursing schools teach students to prescribe and use EPCMs, and none provide training in policy advocacy for improved access. Evidence-based advocacy is essential for improved clinician access for appropriate bedside care, which in turn is essential to relieve severe health related suffering of patients and families around the world. If our members are to make effective use of IAHPCC seats at the policy tables, they must be familiar with the burden of severe health related suffering in their country, grasp the basics of the supply chain for EPCMs, and learn how to leverage the existing framework of human rights and international law directing governments to ensure access.

IAHPCC Strategic Plan: The colloquium aligns with the IAHPCC Strategic Plan 2020-2024. Strategic Objective 1.2: Develop a global cadre of IAHPCC members to advocate for improved access to essential palliative care medicines at national, regional, and global levels.

Objective: To educate the IAHPCC membership about the essential role of evidence-based advocacy for achieving access to EPCMs during the COVID-19 pandemic and thereafter.

Outputs (short, medium, and long term): Participation of IAHPCC members in advocacy in national health policy planning, as well as in IAHPCC delegations to regional and international meetings of UN organizations addressing issues related to palliative care and EPCMs.

Outcome (long term): Improved indicators, such as increased access to EPCMs, for relief of severe health related suffering in countries where educated advocates are working with policy makers and influencers.

Platform: Zoom

Program

- I. Session One: International legal and normative framework requiring UN member states to ensure adequate access to EPCMs

Date: October 6, 8am EST

Panel: Danius Puras (Former SR on Right to Health), Gilles Forte (WHO), Allana Kembabazi (Human Rights Lawyer, Uganda), Cees de Joncheere (INCB)

Moderator: Lukas Radbruch

Topics:



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1. Human Rights Standards re access to ICEMs (Dr. Danius Puras)
2. Normative role of the INCB (Dr. Cees de Joncheere)
3. WHO Guidances and Resolutions (Dr. Gilles Forte)
4. Example from Uganda: The UPR process (Allana Kembabazi)

After completing this webinar, IAHPC members will have learned:

- Which provisions in the international legal and normative framework that direct their governments to ensure access to EPCMs;
- How to engage with that framework to leverage specific provisions in their advocacy to improve access at the regional and national levels;
- How to use the processes set out by human rights bodies at the United Nations organizations to highlight deficits in access and collaborate more closely with their governments to improve access. Example: Uganda.

II. Session Two: Supply Chains for Essential Palliative Care Medicines

Date October 22, 8am EDT.

Panel: Dr. Adi Nuseirat (WHO Technical Officer, EMRO), Dr. Ebtessam Ahmed, (St. John's University, NY); Stefano Berterame (INCB)

Moderator: Hibah Osman

Topics

1. Introduction: The EMRO Indicators Group; Dr. Hibah Osman
2. Supply chains for controlled medicines (Dr. Adi Nuseirat)
3. The Estimates System (Dr. Cees de Joncheere or Stefano Berterame)
4. Developing a Policy -- EMRO Case Study (Dr. Ebtessam Ahmed)

After completing this colloquium, IAHPC members will have learned:

- The structure of the global supply chain that provides pharmacies with ICEMs
- How the INCB estimates system forms part of that supply chain
- How to advocate with competent national authorities to improve access to ICEMs for providers at the bedside
- How to work with partners, including industry, to develop a regional strategy to improve access, using the "Regional Strategy for Improving Access to Controlled Medications in the Eastern Mediterranean Region" as a model.



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III. Session Three: Why evidence-based clinician advocacy for improved access to EPCMs is essential to relieve severe health related suffering of patients and families

Date: November 3, 8am EST

Panel: Lukas Radbruch, Kate Reed-Cox, Marta Ximena Leon, Felicia Knaul, Rumana Dowla, Katherine Pettus

Moderator: Dingle Spence

Topics

1. You have what it takes! Use it: physician advocates speak from their experience (Dr. Lukas Radbruch, Kate Reed-Cox RN, Dr. Rumana Dowla, Dr. Dingle Spence.
2. Tools for evidence-based advocacy. Data Platform and Essential Package (Dr. Felicia Knaul)
3. Case Study from Colombia: Dr. Marta Ximena Leon
4. Wrap up: nuts and bolts of IAHPAC advocacy: Dr. Katherine Pettus

After completing this webinar, IAHPAC members will have learned:

- How clinicians can serve as civil society advocates with their national governments, and in the UN system through accredited NGOs such as IAHPAC and partners;
- How advocates can work through their national associations to relieve severe health related suffering in their countries.
- How to use evidence such as the Database and Essential Package along with stories from their practice to improve access to EPCMs
- Case study of effective national advocacy for access to EPCMs during pandemic in Colombia.