The Challenge and Exploration of Children’s Access to Medicines in BRICS Countries from the View of Achieving the MDGs: Taking China for Example

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Content

- The Millennium Development Goals
- Our efforts
- Recommendations
In 2000, 8 Millennium Development Goals were agreed by country leaders from 189 countries at the UN Millennium Summit.

The 4th Goal: Reduce child mortality by two thirds.
The progress and gap of the MDGs: Goal 4

Goal 4
Reduce child mortality

● DALYs (Disability-adjusted life years) of different ages in global

• WHO proposes
  • Reaching the MDGs on reducing child mortality requires universal coverage with effective and affordable interventions
  • **Medicine is one of the most important measures**
  • Rational medicine treatment and prevention could avoid 8.1 million children under 5 years old from death each year

The current situation of children’s access to medicines

- Lack of medicines exclusive for children: Many medicines for priority diseases are not developed for children; and when they are, they are not reaching the children who need them most

- Lack of children appropriate dosages and specifications: Medical staffs and guardians of children tend to use reduced-dose adult medicines, as well as crush tablets or dissolve capsules in water to prepare medicines for children

- Lack of cost-effectiveness of medicines for children: The few existing paediatric fixed dose combinations developed for children are generally three times more expensive than the adult dosage form

- China for example: a survey of medicines used in pediatrics in 15 hospitals during 2011-2013
  Total: 1098, Medicines exclusive for children: 45, accounting for 4.1%

## Our efforts

### Efforts in promoting children’s access to medicines in China

<table>
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<tr>
<th>National actions</th>
<th>Multi-department coordination</th>
<th>Policy support</th>
<th>Technical Support</th>
<th>Continuous follow-up and improvement</th>
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<tr>
<td>• 2011 CFDA policy research project: Survey on the suggestion of legislation for packaging for child medicines</td>
<td>• 2014 6 Ministries issued Several Opinions on Security of Medications in Children</td>
<td>• 2012 National Essential Medicine List added medicines, dosages and specifications for children</td>
<td>• 2014 Technical Guidelines for Clinical Trials of Pediatric Medicines</td>
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<td>• 2012 Established the new INRUD China Core Centre led by the Director of Medical Administration of M.O.H., including the investigation on the management of vulnerables.</td>
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<td>• 2013 CFDA Opinions on Deepening the Reform of Medicine Evaluation and Approval, Further Encouraging Medicine Innovation</td>
<td>• 2014 M.O.H Major Project on Development and Production of New Medicines: children’s diseases</td>
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<td>• 2012 M.O.H. proposed &quot;Healthy China 2020&quot;</td>
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<td>• 2013 China National Formulation for Children</td>
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<td>• 2014 Proposed resolution of “Access to Essential medicines” to WHA, which was passed</td>
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<td>• 2014 Established the Surveillance Network of Antibiotics Use in Children</td>
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<td>• 2011 Supplement Medicines Additional Catalogue of Sichuan Province in Primary Care to National Essential Medicines</td>
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In 2014, the Resolution of Access to Essential Medicines was proposed and passed at the WHA.

- Focus on medication in children

Urges member states: to place greater emphasis on medicines for children and to promote the availability, affordability, quality and safety of essential medicines for access to these medicines through the development and manufacture of appropriate pediatric formulations and to facilitate market

- Highly praised by Margaret Chan, the Director General of the WHO
Jointly issued by the National Health and Family Planning Commission, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, CFDA and the State Administration of TCM and focus on encouraging R&D, accelerating application and evaluation, guaranteeing production and supply, improving the rational use of medicines in children.
Including Children’s Medicines in EML

• 2011, Supplement Medicines Additional Catalogue of Sichuan to National Essential Medicines
  
  Sichuan Department of Health firstly included 23 medicines and dosage forms for children (29.5%) in provincial additional catalogue to national EML

• 2012, National Essential Medicine List added medicines dosages and specifications for children
  - All National Immunization Programme Vaccines for children were included
  - 200 medicines are available for children, 70 of which are exclusive dosage forms and specifications for children
  - Alleviated the shortage of children’s medication to some extent

Evaluation of After Effect

• 2015 M.O.H. Bidding Subject: Assessment of the Implementation of the WHA Proposal

Drug Policy and Essential Medicine System Department of National Health and Family Planning Commission

The Bidding of 2015 National Subject of Drug Policy Department of M.O.H.

Project 7: The Assessment of the Implementation of the WHA Proposal
International Network for the Rational Use of Drugs (INRUD), China
Zongjiu Zhang, the Director of Medical Administration of M.O.H., served as the leader

In 2012, Medication Management of People with Highest Risk of Drug Exposure, INRUD, China
Prof. Lingli Zhang served as the group leader

Lead research and evidence production of rational medication in high-risk people (children, pregnant women and old people) among more than 70 hospitals around China

April, 2012 the conference of INRUD China
Achievements

• What China has achieved by implementing relevant policies Essential medicine system
  - The essential medicine system has covered all government-run primary medical institutions
  - Established new purchasing mechanism for essential medicines
  - Promoted the comprehensive reform of primary medical institutions
  - The essential medicine system has been extended
  - Initially formed the framework of the essential medicine system policies

• Several Opinions on Security of Medications in Children
  - Present the first list of development-encouraging medicines for children (Prof. Lingli Zhang’s team)
  - Organize related institutions to investigate pilot children’s medicines, which can be included into exclusive application and evaluation access, and be given priority to package insert revision
  - Study and improve consensus and guidelines on children’s medication, data of children’s medication
  - The CFDA is set to speed up the approval progress for some kinds of children’s medicines
Other BRICS countries

• South Africa

In 1998, released the first edition of Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Drugs List For South Africa Hospital Level Paediatrics, current 2006 edition

Within 314 children’s medicines, only 1% is out of reach (3 medicines)

• India

In 2011, released the first edition of List of Essential Medicines for Children of India, which has not been updated
The post-2015 sustainable development agenda

- Ensure healthy life, knowledge, and include both women and children in it
  - Eliminate preventable mortality and malnutrition problems of maternals, neonatals and children
  - Ensure the supply of essential medicines

The children’s access to medicines remains a major challenge

Source: UN. The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet. 2014
Recommendations

- Strengthen and expand the after effect of the Social Forum: Continuous attention and further follow-up to vulnerables’ health; Call for national actions among member states to arouse awarenesses
- Build international cooperation platform for rational use of medicines in vulnerables, focus on developing countries, pay attention to the unredeemed key indicators of the MDGs and key requirements of post-MDG based on the global perspective, produce evidences together, learn and share experiences, including:
  - Publicize and promote successful national medicine policies;
  - Provide resources and assistances to countries which need technical support: the development, production, supply of children’s medicine and reevaluation on their rational use;
  - Produce, compose and convert evidence on children’s access to medicines;
- Develop essential medicine list for children separately: to raise attention to medication in children
**Focus access to medicines strategy on developing countries including BRICS**

- Developing countries/regions
  - Country/Region%: 65%
  - Population%: 82%

- BIRCS
  - Country/Region%: 2.3%
  - Population: 42%

Poor health means poor policy.
—— 2014, Global Symposium on Health Systems Research

Good policy promotes good health!
—— 2015, Social Forum, United Nations

“Every year millions of children die from preventable diseases. It’s not simply a cold statistic, they were flesh and blood human being with names.”
—— 2010, Secretary-general of United Nations Ban Ki-moon

Acknowledgment

- Prof. Youping Li of Chinese Evidence-Based Medicine Center
- Country leaders of BRICS Medicines Alliance
- Staffs of OHCHR
- Research team and colleagues from WCSUH-SCU
HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR!
Welcome to Chengdu, China

Hot pot

Giant Panda

Jiuzhai Valley

Face change
Thanks for your attention

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