

NCD HARD TALKS

DELIVERING ON
THE PROMISES



World Health
Organization

WEBINAR

8 May 2024

13:30–15:00 CEST

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From pockets
to patients:

Rethinking how we can reduce
out-of-pocket expenditure for
NCD medicines

Organized by: WHO/NCD supported by the Joint Working Team for UHC/UHC Partnership

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Overview



To prevent patients from paying too much out of their own pockets, we have to ensure equitable access to NCD medicines and technologies with affordable and effective financing. Furthermore, promoting fair prices and cost-effective interventions are essential to achieving universal health coverage and to this end, strategies for measuring, monitoring, and managing prices must be devised to promote equitable access to these health products. There is not one single approach that suits all systems, but there is a universal need to promote equity in access to effective new products, by ensuring that medical advances are affordable and working with all stakeholders to sustainably respond to public health needs.

In previous Hard Talks on NCD medicines and health technologies access, we discussed how pooled procurement mechanisms and supply chain management can help improve access. We also showed the WHO report on NCD medicines access: emerging issues during the COVID-19 pandemic and key structural factors during the 2023 edition of the webinar. Existing inequalities in NCD treatment and care have been aggravated by a series of global crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and ageing populations. The loss of income and jobs due to COVID-19 increased the already significant barriers to access NCD medicines caused by high prices, especially for poor and uninsured people, along with increases in supplier costs exposing the gaps in supply chain resilience. The pandemic may have ended, but its lasting effect on health care access, including NCD medicines and treatment continues.

Building on this foundation and in preparation for the WHO Second global dialogue on sustainable financing for NCDs and mental health in June 2024, we will use this platform to highlight current challenges, and examine possible opportunities and policy tools to reduce the burden of out-of-pocket (OOP) spending on people with NCDs. In this Hard Talk session, we consider various perspectives to understand drivers of high OOP expenditures on NCDs, existing policies tackling affordability of NCD medicines and health products, as well as opportunities for further improvement.

OBJECTIVE - The aim of this NCD Hard Talk is to leverage perspectives on current challenges and opportunities in lowering out-of-pocket health expenditure for patients living with NCDs, as well as successful levers and policy options, particularly in the context of low- and middle-income countries. This NCD hard talk explores possible avenues for multisectoral collaboration towards improved and equitable access to NCD medicines and health products for patients.

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