Terms of Reference

Epidemiologist to provide technical assistance for an assessment of HCV and HBV transmission at renal hemodialysis facilities in Viet Nam

This consultancy is requested by:

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<tr>
<th>Unit:</th>
<th>Communicable Disease and Health Emergency Team</th>
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<tr>
<td>Division:</td>
<td>WHO Representative Office for Viet Nam</td>
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1. Purpose of the Consultancy

The consultants will work with Viet Nam Administration for Medical Services (VAMS) and WHO Viet Nam Country Office to conduct literature review on HCV and HBV transmission at hemodialysis facilities in Viet Nam, participate in field assessment and stakeholder meeting, and develop a final meeting report.

Background

Viet Nam is one of three countries in the Western Pacific region with high prevalence of hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis virus (HCV) infections. It was estimated nearly 8 million people infected with HBV and 1 million people infected with HCV in Viet Nam in 2017. Although hepatitis C infection prevalence is low in general population, it is very high among high risk populations including people who inject drugs and people with renal haemodialysis. Prevalence of HBsAg and anti-HCV among male who inject drugs were 14.1% and 53.8% respectively. Similarly, a number of recent published papers described high prevalence of HCV and HBV infections among renal dialysis patients in Viet Nam. HCV prevalence among hemodialysis patients was reported from 12%-26%. An outbreak of HCV infection was also reported in one renal dialysis facility at district hospital in Viet Nam in 2016. These studies mentioned the persistence lack of implementation of standard and evidence based infection prevention control (IPC) practices to prevent cross infection due to blood borne infections such as HCV and HBV infections.

In 2016, a mission from WPRO came to assess the national response to viral hepatitis in Viet Nam and one of the recommendations from the mission is “carry out systematic assessment of IPC practices at haemodialysis settings to inform development of actions to reduce transmission of hepatitis viruses”.

WHO has discussed these recommendations from assessment report with VAMS and it is agreed that an assessment of HCV and HBV transmission due to renal dialysis in Viet Nam is necessary to review the current situation and to develop recommendations in order to reduce the risk of hepatitis transmission at renal hemodialysis units in Viet Nam. In collaboration with an IPC expert, an international epidemiologist is expected to conduct desk review on HCV and HBV transmission due to renal dialysis, in addition to participate in a field assessment and the stakeholder meeting together with IPC expert. The Epidemiologist will be responsible for develop a final report with inputs from IPC expert.
Planned timelines

Start date: 10 Aug 2018

End date: 10 Sep 2018

In-country assessment: 19 – 25 August, 2018

2. Work to be performed

a. Specific objectives of the consultancy activity:
   - Review published and unpublished studies and reports regarding IPC in hemodialysis setting in Vietnam with focusing on HCV and HBV transmissions
   - Participate in the field assessments to selected renal hemodialysis facilities at national, provincial and district hospitals to assess the current practices on IPC and identify potential factors that may induce cross infections of HCV and HBV.
   - Share the findings and outcomes from the desk review in the stakeholder consultation meeting and document the meeting discussion to consolidate as a meeting report of the stakeholders consultation meeting
   - Develop a meeting report which includes desk review, finding from field assessment, and from stakeholder meeting discussion, and recommendations for improvement of IPC and reduce hepatitis transmission at renal hemodialysis facilities in Vietnam, in coordination with an IPC expert

b. Method (s) to carry out the activity:

Working with WHO team and VAMS/MOH to carry-out the proposed activities and provide deliverables.

c. Outputs:
   - **Output 1**: Literature review on the HCV and HBV transmission in renal dialysis facilities in Vietnam conducted

     **Deliverable 1.1.** A meeting report on the assessment including literature review, findings from field visits and inputs from stakeholder consultation meeting and recommendations for improvement

Description of the tasks/process involved in carrying out the activity:

- Conduct literature review on HBV and HCV transmission in renal dialysis settings in Vietnam
- Participate in the field assessments at renal haemodialysis facilities in national, provincial and district hospitals.
- Participate in the stakeholder consultation meeting and document the discussion from national experts in the meeting
- Develop a meeting report including literature review, the field assessment findings, inputs from the stakeholder consultation meeting, and recommendations and tools (if relevant) for improvement

Tasks to be carried-out:

- Desk review of literature review on HCV and HCV infections among dialysis patients and transmission of these pathogens in renal dialysis facilities
- Participate in the field assessment of IPC practice in renal dialysis facilities at selected national, provincial and district hospitals.
- Present finding from literature review at the stakeholder consultation meeting and document the discussion and develop a meeting report
- Develop and submit a meeting report which incorporates the findings from desk review and field assessment, inputs from stakeholder consultation meeting, and recommendations for improvement of IPC practice to reduce risk of transmission of HBV and HCV.

3. Expected deliverables

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<th>Deliverables</th>
<th>Expected date of delivery</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Progress report on literature review on HBV and HCV transmission in renal dialysis settings in Viet Nam</td>
<td>20 August</td>
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<td>2. A draft meeting report on stakeholder consultation meeting</td>
<td>30 Aug 2018</td>
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<td>3. A final meeting report which includes findings from desk review and field assessment, inputs from stakeholder consultation meeting, and recommendation for improvement of IPC practice to reduce risk of transmission of HBV and HCV.</td>
<td>10 Sep 2018</td>
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4. Specific requirements

   a. Qualifications required:
      - Medical doctor from a recognized university with postgraduate degree in relevant areas Infectious disease or epidemiology

   b. Experience required:
      - Minimum 5 years of experiences in relevant areas including infectious disease and epidemiological research
      - Minimum 5 research articles on epidemiological research relevant to this consultancy work including HCV and HBV transmission at renal hemodialysis facilities published at peer-reviewed scientific journal
      - Previous experiences in blood-borne transmission in dialysis facilities is an advantage
      - Experiences in working with Ministry of Health and Hospitals in Viet Nam is desirable

   c. Skills / Technical skills and knowledge:
      - Demonstrated good knowledge in infectious diseases surveillance
      - Demonstrated good writing skills
      - Familiarity with viral hepatitis and WHO guidelines or recommendations

   d. Language requirements:
      - Written and spoken fluency in English is essential.
      - Written and spoken proficiency in Vietnamese is an asset

   e. Competencies:
      - Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
      - Ability to plan and prioritise challenging workloads
      - Demonstrated ability to work as part of a team
      - Fostering integration and teamwork

5. Place of assignment

Consultant will be required to work in Hanoi from 19 – 25 Aug in Hanoi with 1-2 days travel to another province. The rest of days will be working from distant.

6. Medical clearance

Medical certificate is required