

Meeting Brief

Access to Medicine Action Group

DEESHA

[Diabetes (Type 1) Education and Empowerment Strategic Health Alliance]

Date: 17th November 2023, Friday | **Time:** 08:00 – 09:00 pm | **Location:** Virtual Zoom meeting

People to People Health Foundation (PPHF), the secretariat of DEESHA- [Diabetes (Type 1) Education and Empowerment Strategic Health Alliance] convened the first meeting for the **Access to Medicine Action Group** on **Friday, November 17, 2023**. The meeting agenda items were:

1. Discussion of workplan activities and drafting for Access to Medicine group.
2. Establishing guiding principles for the group.
3. Nominations of facilitators for Access to Medicine group.
4. Membership for Action group on Access to Medicine.

Summary of meeting discussions

The meeting commenced with a review of the agenda items from the last meeting. The key highlights from the discussion are as follows:

a) Discussion on workplan activities for the Access to Medicine Action group

During the meeting, an extensive discussion unfolded, encompassing activities across various time frames- short-term (0-6 months), medium-term (12-36 months), and long-term (3-5 years).

- The members discussed the workplan activities (refer to Annexure-1) and suggested some additional activities (refer to S2, S3, M4, L4 in Annexure-1).
- The majority of participants shared their opinion on building advocacy for the inclusion of insulins, particularly analog insulins in the Essential Drug List. There is a need for advocating free insulins to those in need at government hospitals was discussed.
- The focus extended to developing a robust framework for evidence-based advocacy tailored to the needs of Type 1 diabetics in India.
- The group discussed collecting, synthesizing and developing an advocacy package and policy note for key influencers for improving legislation, policies and implementation practices both at the centre as well as states.

- The Alliance will have a mandate for influencing all relevant stakeholders in driving successful outcomes on increased access to medicine along with central and state governments.
- A discussion to incorporate analog insulins into Jan Ausadhi Kendra, leveraging its network for the cost-effective distribution of insulins.

As a next step, the action group will undertake the formulation of a **political manifesto** with a dedicated emphasis on championing policies aimed at augmenting accessibility to medication, improving financial provisions, and providing robust support systems for children with Type 1 Diabetes.

b) Nominations for facilitators Action Group

The secretariat will approach the group members to seek nominations for facilitator and co-facilitator of the Access to Medicine action group. Their role will involve coordinating technical and other advocacy work of the action group, as well as facilitating effective communication and collaboration among group members and with the secretariat.

c) Membership for Action group on Access to Medicine

The group decided to invite more key stakeholders to be a part of the Access to Medicine action group. The group will coordinate with all members requesting them to nominate individuals to be a part of the group.

The meeting was adjourned with a note of appreciation for everyone's valuable contributions and participation. The Secretariat extended a vote of thanks to all the participants.

List of Participants

1. Dr. Anil Kumar Vedwal, Yog Dhyan Foundation
2. Dr. Banshi Saboo, Diacare
3. Mr. Harsh Koli, Diya Group
4. Dr. Jothydev Kesavadev, Jothydev's Diabetes and Research Centre
5. Dr. Krishnan Swaminathan, Idhayangal Charitable Trust
6. Ms. Madhumati Dey, Diabetes Awareness & You, Kolkata
7. Dr. Madhur Verma, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bathinda
8. Mr. Rohan Arora, Blue Circle Foundation
9. Dr. Rutul Gokalani, AHC Diabetes Clinic
10. Dr. Yash Patel, All India Institute of Diabetes and Research

PPHF meeting facilitators and support team

Mr. Ajay Pal, Ms. Ifra Yusuf, Ms. Kritika Banerjee, Dr. Laxmikant Palo, Mr. Nitin Bhardwaj

Annexure -1

Workplan Activities for Access to Medicine Action Group

Short Term (0-6 months)	Medium Term (12-36 months)	Long Term (3-5 years)
S1. Draft a manifesto statement for political parties in India for better accessibility of medicine and program to support the T1D children and their families.	M1. Increasing access to affordable and quality medication for Type 1 DM.	L1. Influence policymakers for T1D care and advocacy (Ex: GST reduction, access, additional financing provisions).
S2. Development of a robust framework for evidence-based advocacy kit and policy note.	M2. The group will have a mandate for influencing all relevant stakeholders in driving successful T1D outcomes.	L2. Provide opportunities for members to voice their concerns.
S3. Advocacy for inclusion of insulins in Essential Drug List, especially, the analogs.	M3. Collaborate with schools to create policies that allow children to manage their diabetes safely during school hours, including administering insulin and monitoring their glucose levels.	L3. Sub-groups can be set up for specific topics of urgent interest.
S4. Advocacy for providing free insulins to those in need at Government hospitals.	M4. Advocacy directed towards allocation of Glucometer strips, insulin storage and cold chain maintenance.	L4. Proposal to incorporate analog insulins into Jan Ausadhi Kendra, leveraging its network for the cost-effective distribution of insulins.
S5. Collaborate with pharmaceutical companies to ensure that pediatric diabetes medications are available and affordable.		

For questions or suggestions, please reach out to:

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