



NEW HORIZONS

ADVANCING PEDIATRIC HIV CARE

NEW HORIZONS ADVANCING PEDIATRIC HIV CARE COLLABORATIVE

Background

In response to a gap in the availability of second- and third-line treatment options for HIV-positive children and adolescents in the landscape of rapid scale-up of antiretroviral therapy (ART), Johnson & Johnson, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF), and the Partnership for Supply Chain Management (PFSCM) launched the New Horizons Advancing Pediatric HIV Care Collaborative in 2014. Since its establishment, several additional partners have joined the initiative, including Right to Care, the Relevance Network, and the collaborative Initiative for Paediatric HIV Education and Research (CIPHER) of the International AIDS Society (IAS).

The mission of the collaborative is to advance a holistic, integrated approach to high-quality and sustainable pediatric and adolescent HIV care and treatment with a particular focus on those in need of second- and third-line medication. Key objectives of the collaborative include (1) addressing the gap between pediatric and adult HIV and AIDS treatment; (2) targeting the challenges of sustainable ART service delivery for children and adolescents; and (3) building awareness of and confronting the challenges faced by adolescents concerning adherence, disclosure, psychosocial support, retention, and transition to adult care.

Darunavir/Etravirine Donation Program

As the number of treatment-experienced children and adolescents increases, the potential for treatment failure will likely increase, as will the need for second- and third-line treatment options. The collaborative directly funds several platforms aimed at addressing an immediate humanitarian need for advanced ART for children and adolescents living with HIV and supporting health systems strengthening for national HIV and AIDS programs. The flagship program, a darunavir (DRV) / etravirine (ETR) donation program, was launched in 2014 to increase access to third-line HIV medication for

children and adolescents experiencing treatment failure on second-line ART. The countries participating in the New Horizons program are, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe; South Africa is the only country among the nine that is not receiving product donations, as the South African Ministry of Health directly purchases pediatric DRV and ETR.



Milestone Activities

The New Horizons Collaborative also conducts research, builds capacity, develops resources, and provides technical assistance to participating countries. Below are highlights of the milestone activities in which the collaborative has been involved since its inception.

Technical Leadership

EGPAF has provided technical assistance as part of the New Horizons Collaborative, including conducting and facilitating trainings for health care providers and offering assistance in overcoming regulatory barriers. EGPAF has also developed tools on topics such as disclosure of HIV status, management of treatment failure, and pediatric second- and third-line ART dosing guidelines for use by both New Horizons Collaborative members and the broader pediatric ART implementation community.

Building The Evidence Base

Starting in 2018, EGPAF plans to lead a prospective multicountry cohort study of children and adolescents receiving DRV- and/or ETR-based regimens under the New Horizons drug donation program. The aim of this study will be to evaluate the outcomes of children and adolescents living with HIV on advanced ART. In 2017, the *Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal* published findings from this data collection in an article titled “Characteristics of Treatment-Experienced HIV-Infected African Children and Adolescents.” The study, which reported baseline data from the cohort of children initiating DRV- and/or ETR-based ART in the four countries, found that a significant proportion of treatment-experienced African children and adolescents had one or more DRV- and/or ETR-resistant mutations. For the new DRV- and/or ETR-based ART regimen, more than a third of pediatric patients failed second-line ART and were prescribed nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor-sparing regimens. The study highlighted the need for a better understanding of current approaches to pediatric ART sequencing in resource-limited settings.

Since 2014, EGPAF has spearheaded an annual technical support workshop to bring together Ministry of Health officials, representatives from the member organizations of the New Horizons Collaborative, and other key stakeholders. Sessions consist of plenary and interactive panel sessions to discuss challenges with adherence and retention in care, gaps in advanced pediatric ART research, and managing pediatric treatment failure.

Donation Program Expression Of Interest

How to apply to the New Horizons Collaborative

EGPAF supports the New Horizons expression of interest (EOI) application process and convenes an expert review committee to ascertain the readiness of countries willing to participate in this donation program and assess capacity-building needs. EOI applications may be submitted by Ministries of Health or designees from countries in sub-Saharan Africa and countries considered to be least developed by the United Nations. New Horizons will be accepting applications on a quarterly basis through the end of 2019.

Additional information and application materials can be found on EGPAF's website, at <http://www.pedaids.org/new-horizons-advancing-pediatric-hiv-care-collaborative/>.



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