



GLOBAL TASK FORCE ON CHOLERA CONTROL

Introduction to Case Management WG virtual seminars 2020

Due to the CoVID-19 pandemic, the GTFCC will not host a face to face Case Management WG meeting this year. However, around the world progress is being made to implement long term cholera control plans and to increase knowledge on the treatment of cholera. Although we won't be able to update everyone in person, we are organizing two virtual seminars to provide an opportunity to share updates, ideas and experiences.

At the core of the Ending Cholera: a global roadmap to 2030 strategy are national multi-year, multi-sectoral plans for long term control of cholera (NCP). For case management the primary objective of NCPs is to increase early access to effective treatment to reduce overall cholera deaths. This means ensuring effective treatment is available for patients as close to home as possible for the full spectrum of scenarios: from the first cases that present to a health structure before an epidemic is identified through to a large-scale response if an epidemic takes hold.

In many countries, health staff see few cholera patients, it may be years between outbreaks or there may be high staff turnover in highly affected areas. Poor knowledge of cholera is often cited as a reason for high case fatality, especially at the beginning of an outbreak. The staff may not make the diagnosis, if they do suspect the patient has cholera, they may not know how to treat the patient and even if they know what to do, they may not have the necessary supplies. What actions need to be taken or programmes implemented to ensure staff do have the knowledge and means to treat that first patient? And how can treatment be ensured when an outbreak occurs in a complex humanitarian setting?

As more countries engage in long term cholera control, identify cholera hotspots and launch NCPs, countries and partners need to translate objectives into the necessary activities on the ground.

In the first seminar, we will have countries and partners present some of the steps they are taking and programmes they are implementing to improve access to treatment for cholera patients. They will share experiences that can be adapted in other countries and contexts.

In addition, it is important to ensure that what is being implemented is effective and there are still gaps in our knowledge. During the second seminar we will look at some recent and planned research that will help increase our knowledge of what is 'best practice'.

Session 1 (Thursday 17th September): Improving access to treatment for cholera: experience from the field

Session 2 (Thursday 1st October): Research update – recently published, and work in progress