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**INDIAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS**  
Kailas Darshan, Kennedy Bridge, Mumbai-400007

**Minutes of the meeting of the IAP Advisory Committee on Vaccines & Immunization Practices (ACVIP) of Indian Academy of Pediatrics held on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at IMA House, New Delhi 11.00 AM onwards.**

*The following IAP ACVIP members were present at the meeting:*

Dr. C.P. Bansal, Chair

Dr Vijay Yewale Co-chair

Dr Rohit Agarwal, Co-chair

Dr. S. Kamath – President Elect IAP

Dr Vipin M. Vashishtha, Convener

Dr Shashi Vani, Member

Dr Anuradha Bose, Member

Dr Ajay Kalra, Member

Dr Ramchandran VG, Consultant

Dr NK Arora, Consultant

*Following members requested leave of absence:*

Dr Pravin J. Mehta, Coordinator

Dr. H.P.S. Sachdev, Consultant

Dr. A.K. Patwari. Member

Dr Surjit Singh, Member

Dr Naveen Thacker, Consultant

Dr Rajesh Kumar, Consultant

Dr Ajay Gambhir, Consultant

Dr. Panna Choudhury, Rapporteur

***Proceeding & recommendations:***

1. Dr. C.P. Bansal (CPB) , Chairman, ACVIP welcomed the participants to this last meeting of the current committee. In his address, he stressed the need of reducing the huge margins offered to doctors on prescription of vaccines. There is a marked difference in the MRP of a vaccine and the price at which a vaccine made available to a prescribing doctor. He pointed out that this difference was surprisingly more in the products produced and marketed by some Indian companies.

On the issue of formation of a new committee for next year, he urged the incoming president of IAP to stick to the democratic and transparent process (of selection of members & advisors) adopted by the office-bearer during while constituting the previous committee.

He also stressed the need of sticking to the process of issuing recommendations by evidence based process and once recommendations are approved by the committee, EB, and published by the journal, they should be promoted and propagated through all official platforms of IAP.

He also requested that a separated fund to run the activities of the committee must be allocated by the CIAP so that the committee was not overburdened with the task of generating funds to sustain its own activities.

2. Dr. Vipin M. Vashishtha (VMV), Convener presented the report card of all ACVIP activities done in the year 2013-14. He informed the participants that this was the 4th & the final meeting of the current committee whose tenure would be over by 31st December 2014. During this tenure, the ACVIP has published IAP Text book of Vaccines, IAP Guidebook of Vaccines, 2013-14 and IAP APP on Immunization. The committee has also published its annual immunization timetable for 2013 & 2014 which were published in Indian Pediatrics.

He also informed that position papers on Pertussis immunization, Measles & Rubella Initiative, Measles control strategies in India, AEFI Surveillance, and Influenza vaccination have already been published.

Position papers on Rotavirus immunization, Typhoid vaccines, Mumps burden and immunization, and Rabies are in different stages of finalization and shall be completed soon.

3. **Conflict of interest issues** : The recommendations of the three-member fact finding committee on Conflict of Interest were circulated amongst participants in the meeting. According to the recommendations, the

three members namely, Drs Vijay N. Yewale, Rohit Agarwal and Anuradha Bose were found to have conflicts of interest with some vaccine companies. The sub-committee recommended that they should not be allowed to vote for products manufactured by these companies. Dr. Vijay N. Yewale (VNY) and Dr. Rohit Agarwal pointed out some discrepancies in the table. The issue was referred to Dr HPS Sachdev who opined that the sub-committee on 'Conflicts of interest' had only compared the two submitted versions in the written format and made recommendations on that.

4. **Terms of Reference (ToR) and Finances :** Dr CPB and Dr VMV stressed the need of sticking to the terms and conditions mentioned in the approved TOR of the committee while constituting the new committee.

They stressed the need of following the clauses pertaining to dealing with 'conflicts of interest' issues.

Dr. CPB informed that all the finances of the committee's meeting were met by the CIAP. He requested the new president to continue with this arrangement.

5. **Process of issuing recommendations :** Dr. VMV reiterated that the process of issuing recommendations should ideally be based on 'evidence based review'. He acknowledged that current recommendations were based on quasi-EBR process along with consensus. The recommendations were also framed keeping the upcoming national immunization requirements. He stressed the need of ownership by IAP office-bearers at least on the guidelines published by IAP and that on official IAP platform contrary position should be avoided. Once a guideline is approved by the committee and EB of IAP they become official IAP recommendations and every IAP member should ideally follow it. Controversies should be avoided and difference of opinions should not be aired especially on the official IAP platforms. Also, Dr. CPB informed that he would be giving a notice for the matter to be discussed at the GBM in Delhi Pedicon 2015. Dr. Ajay Kalra suggested that it needed to be published in the Indian Pediatrics or any other forum about the way the process of issuing recommendations took place in the committee.

Dr VNY suggested that there were many other experts outside the ACVIP who should also be invited and their views should also be included in the proceeding and recommendations. VMV raised the issue of definition of 'an expert' and opined the move would create an extra-constitutional authority and would ultimately undermine the status of the sub-committee.

6. **Vaccine Scheduling & Impact:** Dr VMV presented a broad overview of some of the shortcomings of existing national immunization schedule and stressed the need of revising both EPI and IAP immunization schedule timing from existing 6-10-14 week to 2-4-6 month schedule. Dr. N.K. Arora made a detailed presentation on the need to relook at existing EPI schedule and discussed whether it was time to revise and revamp this schedule. Dr VNY presented IAP's perspectives on the need of revision of schedule.
7. **Policy on Process of Reviewing & Issuing Vaccine Recommendations:** The different brands of licensed vaccines available in the Indian market were reviewed. Dr. Anuradha Bose made a presentation on HPV vaccines. Dr. Rohit Agarwal gave a comparative study of the Pneumococcal vaccines. The Pentavalent vaccines were compared by Dr. VMV. Dr. Ajay Kalra gave a comparative evaluation of the Typhoid vaccines and also the latest status of the conjugate vaccine trials. MMR vaccines and Rabies vaccines were comparatively analyzed by Dr. Sashi Vani
8. Dr. U.G. Ramchandran discussed about the JE vaccines and also expressed his concern over the recommendation of Universal Immunization of adults in the concerned areas especially in view of the scientific data available against this move.
9. Addressing the gaps in existing recommendations : Dr. VMV informed that there had been several comments and queries on the recommendations made by ACVIP especially in Indian Pediatrics. They have been mostly in respect of inclusion of MMR in place of Measles vaccine at 9 mo, time slot for the new conjugate typhoid vaccines, one dose recommendations of live attenuated hepatitis A vaccine, and new schedule of HPV vaccine. These issues were discussed in detail and Dr. VMV was authorized to frame suitable replies to these.
10. A presentation was made on "Vaccine Vial Monitors for the Private Vaccine Market by Mr. Chris Caulfield, Vice President, Global Customer Development of TempTime Corporation USA.
11. In the end, the convener, VMV thanked all the participants for their active participation in the meeting. He also thank all the preceding Chairmen & OBs, Advisors, Consultants and members of the current and past committees. *--Report prepared by Dr. Ajay Kalra, December 25, 2014*