

STRONGER HEALTH SYSTEMS. GREATER HEALTH IMPACT.



Medicines as Part of Universal Health Coverage: The Global Dialogue

David Lee, M.D.

Policy Dialogue on Universal Health Care & Access to Medicines
Asian Institute of Management
Makati City, 25 & 26 July 2013

Universal Health Coverage



- ① **One of the main goals of current global health efforts, many are advocating for UHC to be the overarching post-2015 health development goal**
- ① **Intent to guarantee access to needed health care services without placing an inordinate cost burden on patients, especially those who are disadvantaged or very poor**
- ① **Momentum for UHC growing significantly over the past few years, BUT medicines coverage has not been adequately addressed**
- ① **Financing of UHC has been a major challenge for many countries, which may explain why pharmaceuticals are often not covered or inadequately covered in benefit packages**



- ① **Pharmaceuticals are responsible for a large proportion of total health care expenditures in low and middle income countries (LMIC) and often account for nearly half of all out-of-pocket costs paid by consumers in those countries.**
- ① **If access to medicines under UHC is to be achieved, in public programs and in insurance schemes, active medicines management and sound medicines benefit policies are necessary.**

The role of medicines in UHC



- ④ **A framework for medicines management in health systems and insurance schemes**
- ④ **The business case for LMIC governments to cover inpatient and outpatient medicines in UHC schemes**



Medicines management and benefit policies

- ① **Country/scheme experiences, including challenges and innovative approaches in medicines management and policy**
- ① **Considerations for designing an essential medicines benefit package**
- ① **Considerations for covering high-cost medicines that may benefit few individuals**
- ① **Policy and program options for covering care and medicines for chronic conditions**
- ① **Transparency/ethics of resource allocation in a resource-limited context**
- ① **Approaches to ensuring equity in medicines benefits**



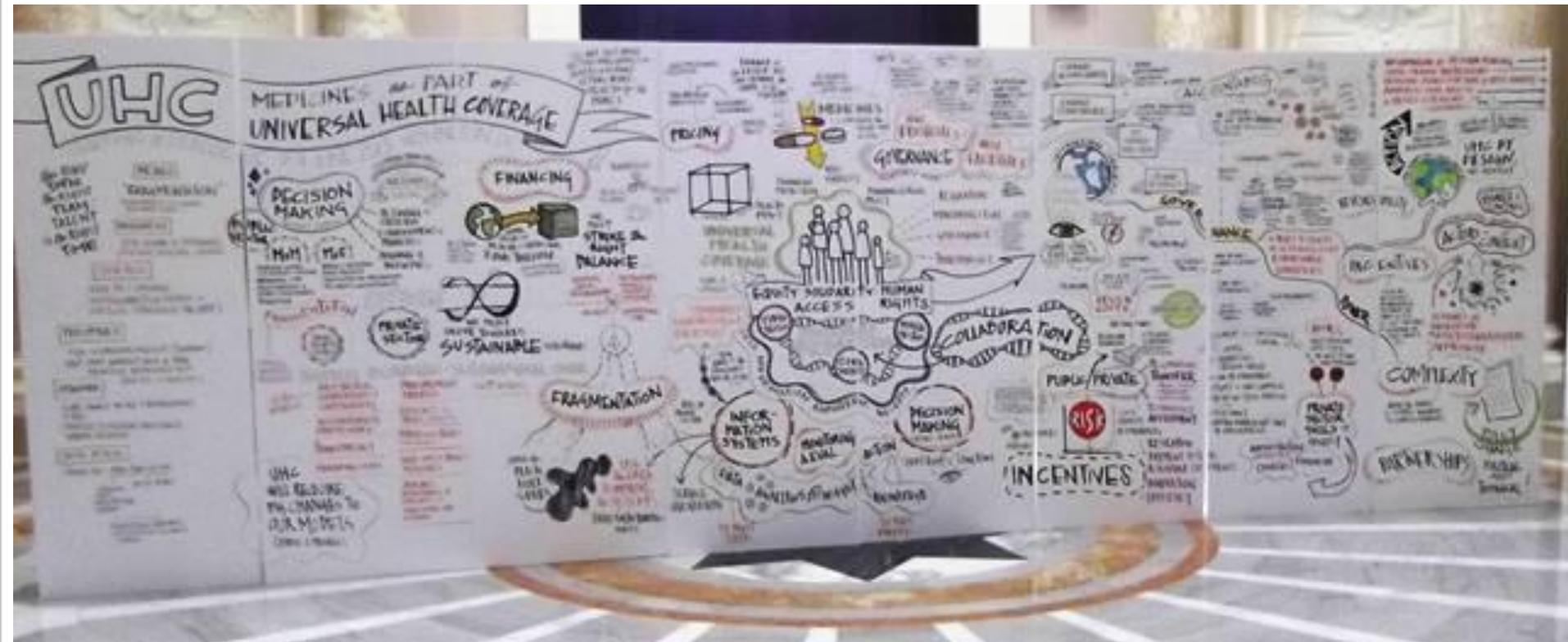
- ① **Approaches for routine assessments of fraud and medicines expenditures and utilization**
- ① **Key indicators of fraud and medicines expenditure and utilization for routinely monitoring medicines management and policy impacts in LMIC insurance schemes**
- ① **Evaluation of medicines benefit policy impacts; building a portfolio of evidence**

Policy change to incorporate medicines in UHC schemes



- ⊕ **Political and system challenges to covering medicines in LMIC insurance schemes**
- ⊕ **Capacity needs for pharmaceutical policy leadership and governance; UHC policy and program design, implementation and monitoring**
- ⊕ **Securing local, national, and global commitment to medicines as a key focus of sustainable UHC expansion**

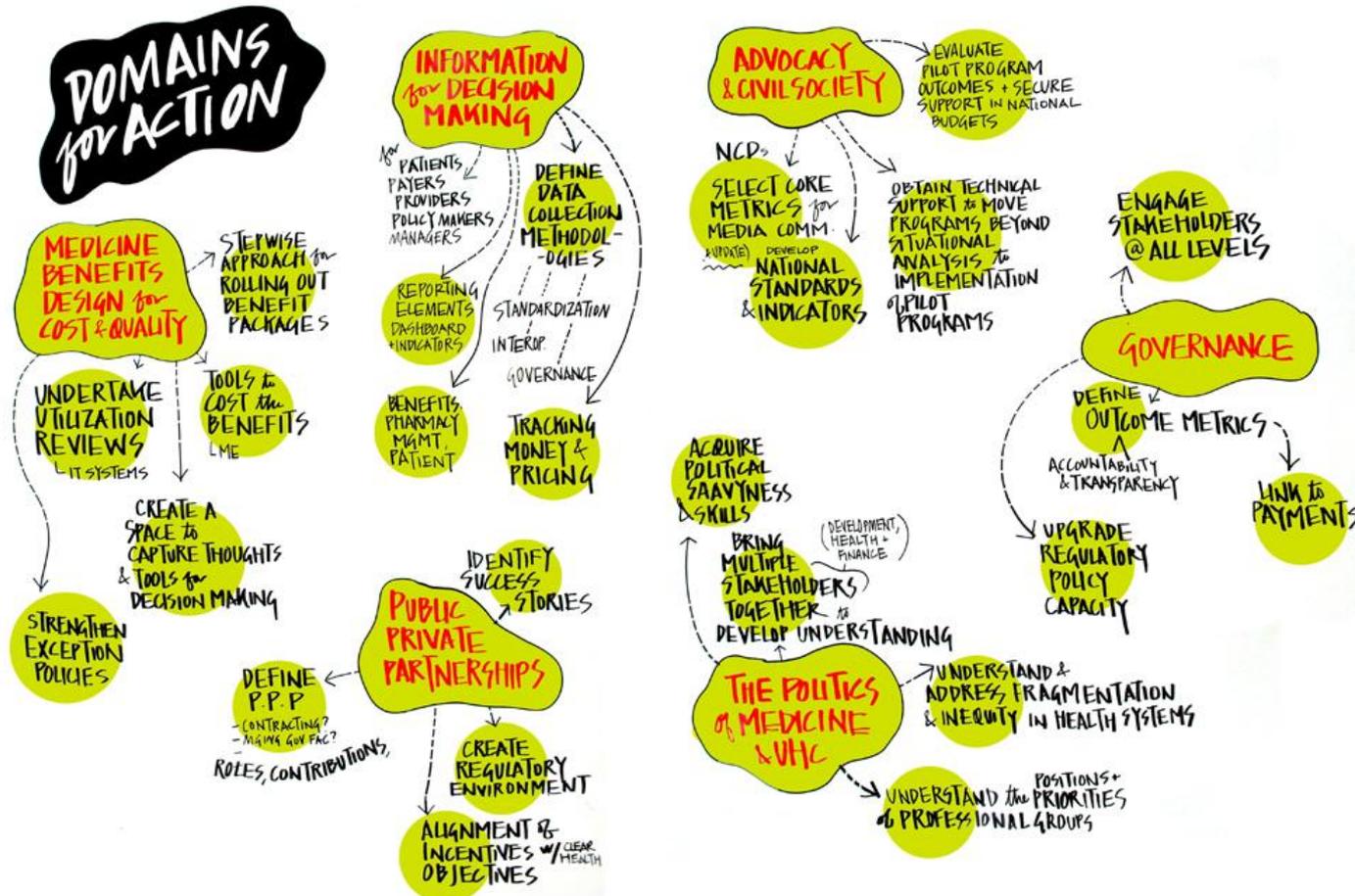
Starting the Global Dialogue



Medicines as Part of Universal Health Coverage, Washington DC, June 2-4, 2013
Management Sciences for Health, Harvard Medical School Department of Population
Medicine, Rockefeller Foundation, with additional support from USAID and PAHO,

<http://uhc-medicines.org/>

From Dialogue to Action



Medicines & UHC: Key Messages (1)



- ① **Medicines strongly impact on individuals' and populations' health; they use scarce household resources; and they can challenge the economic viability of systems. UHC policies must actively address medicines accessibility, affordability, and use if they are to achieve their goals.**
- ② **Achieving UHC without addressing medicines is not possible. Furthermore, UHC efforts have the potential to end the “travesty of countries using medicines that are not helpful”.**

Summarized from A Dialogue on Medicines as Part of Universal Health Coverage:
Top Ten Takeaways by Anita Wagner & Dennis Ross-Degnan.

<http://www.msh.org/blog/2013/06/30/>



- ⊕ **Decisions about medicines are political as well as technical. They take place in complex, dynamic systems. This requires understanding the health system and cultural contexts and values that underlie medicines decisions.**
- ⊕ **Effective partnerships are needed between pharmaceutical industry actors and other stakeholders committed to solving medicines and UHC challenges.**

Summarized from A Dialogue on Medicines as Part of Universal Health Coverage:
Top Ten Takeaways by Anita Wagner & Dennis Ross-Degnan.
<http://www.msh.org/blog/2013/06/30/>

Medicines & UHC: Key Messages (3)



- ① **Making innovative, high-cost medicines accessible to those who need them will require agreement on what a system can afford to cover between all stakeholders—government, civil society, clinical and public health practitioners, philanthropy, academia, development organizations, and pharmaceutical companies.**

Summarized from A Dialogue on Medicines as Part of Universal Health Coverage: Top Ten Takeaways by Anita Wagner & Dennis Ross-Degnan.

<http://www.msh.org/blog/2013/06/30/>



- ⊕ **Although contexts differ, medicines issues across countries are similar. Key challenges include fragmented decision-making across health, financing, and other authorities; inconsistent understanding of “universal access” and how to allocate limited resources; perverse incentives that contribute to wasteful medicines spending; how to ensure life-long treatment for chronic conditions; and deciding how to cover innovative, high-cost medicines.**

Summarized from A Dialogue on Medicines as Part of Universal Health Coverage: Top Ten Takeaways by Anita Wagner & Dennis Ross-Degnan.

<http://www.msh.org/blog/2013/06/30/>



- ① **Information is needed to make informed decisions about covering medicines. Informatics systems must include essential data on medicines cost and use.**
- ② **Essential data on medicines (procurement, stock, or dispensing records, clinic or hospital health records) can be used to assess how medicines are used in systems.**

Summarized from A Dialogue on Medicines as Part of Universal Health Coverage: Top Ten Takeaways by Anita Wagner & Dennis Ross-Degnan.
<http://www.msh.org/blog/2013/06/30/>



- ④ **It is more straightforward to target the quality of pharmaceutical care than the quality of care overall – a key goal for successful UHC implementation.**
- ④ **Efforts are underway to create a monitoring framework for UHC, which must include practical, reliable, and actionable indicators related to medicines.**

Summarized from A Dialogue on Medicines as Part of Universal Health Coverage: Top Ten Takeaways by Anita Wagner & Dennis Ross-Degnan.

<http://www.msh.org/blog/2013/06/30/>



- ④ **The dialogue continues ...
but, action must follow constructive dialogue.**
- ④ **To achieve the win-win-win situation we must do it together.**
- ④ **Nobody is saying this is/will be easy.**
- ④ ***Are we up to the challenge?***

STRONGER HEALTH SYSTEMS. GREATER HEALTH IMPACT.



Saving lives and improving the health of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people by closing the gap between knowledge and action in public health.