

Navigating the unknown: Ensuring equitable TB vaccine access to maximize health impact

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The dilemma: While several promising TB vaccine candidates are in the pipeline, numerous unknowns remain for these candidates in regard to vaccine characteristics, including safety and efficacy, vaccine effectiveness compared to and in conjunction with existing preventive measures, as well as robustness of pharmacovigilance data, and other aspects such as public confidence in the vaccines. Another major unknown is the size of the initial vaccine supply; however, it is expected to be limited. This necessitates the development of national and global TB vaccine allocation frameworks to ensure equitable distribution and maximum impact upon availability.

Approach: A scoping literature review is underway to identify key principles and strategies from existing vaccine allocation frameworks. The review focuses on vaccines utilized in routine and emergency contexts, including malaria, COVID-19, dengue, and meningococcal vaccines, among others.

The way forward: A diverse group of stakeholders will discuss the key principles identified from both routine settings as well as emergency settings to inform the preliminary development of a TB vaccine allocation framework. This will include considerations related to allocation based on greatest need and maximizing health impact, and ensuring equity, access, and affordability. The long-term goal is to develop a framework through a transparent, inclusive, participatory, and evidence-based process. The framework is intended to guide national and global policy makers in planning for TB vaccine allocation under conditions of scarcity that will likely necessitate prioritizing different population groups over time. Additionally, this approach can be complemented by ongoing, communication, and market shaping efforts to secure a greater and more reliable vaccine supply to ultimately meet global demand.

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Conflicts of Interest

None

