WHO vector control products prequalification update and implementation roadmap for the updated ITN guideline

G. Foster
WHO prequalification vector control products team
VCWG, 15th April 2024
WHO Guideline for the prequalification assessment of insecticide-treated nets

Major changes in, and intent of, the revised guideline
ITN assessment guideline updates

- 2019 – 2023: Guideline for the prequalification assessment of insecticide-treated nets - Published December 15, 2023
  - Parent guideline document
  - 46 implementation guidance documents
  - Some activities continuing into 2024
    - Updated long-term community studies protocol
    - Development of guidance on post-market monitoring and surveillance
Why update the guideline?

Data consistency and improved policy outcomes

Stage 1

Pre-market data generation (PQ dossier)

Operational data (long-term community studies)

Post-market monitoring and surveillance

Stage 2

Coherent data packages

Centre end user experiences to address health inequities and gender disparities

Complaint investigation

VCWG, Kigali, April 2024
The intent of the WHO Guideline for prequalification assessment of ITNs is to prepare the way for the products of the future.

Updated pre-market data requirements to ensure comprehensive baseline datasets on product specifications, fabric behaviour, active ingredient presentation and product performance in multiple settings.

Historically, products have been developed to ‘meet’ the requirements of the 2013 LLIN guidelines, instead of being designed for their intended use.

The updated guideline and data requirements ensures that product characteristics and performance are tied to the product intended use and duration of effect, not to ‘pass’ a guideline requirement.
Intent of the updated guideline

• Generate baseline datasets for all existing products
• Revised pre-market data requirements set the baseline for updates to revised long-term community studies protocol and development of post-market monitoring and surveillance guidance
Major changes

- Enhanced physical durability requirements
- Storage stability study
- Regeneration study
- Additional semi-field study
- Increased availability of bioassay methods
Implementation plan (1)

• The WHO Guideline for prequalification assessment includes requirements for additional studies and more detailed information pertaining to the formulation, manufacturing, and physical chemical characteristics of ITNs.

• Hence, **updated product dossiers are required**.

• It is imperative that the information submitted, including previously submitted/reviewed studies are **relevant to the current manufacturing process and formulation**.

• During the product reassessment process, all products will remain on the prequalified list.
Implementation plan (2)

• Prequalified products
  ◦ Not based on a claim of equivalence – Submit Module 3, 4, 5 requirements for assessment by 31 December 2024
  ◦ Based on a claim of equivalence - Submit a complete product dossier for assessment by 31 December 2025

• Proposed products submitted after 30 June 2025 - Submitted product dossiers are expected to comply with the new guideline.

• WHO PQT/VCP will work with individual manufacturers to define timelines for data submission as required
2024 activities: Long-term community studies protocol

- Update to community studies protocol undertaken as part of the ITN guideline revision

- Update to include:
  - Considerations for ensuring that studies are adequately powered
  - Criteria for:
    - Physical durability of ITNs
    - ITN consistency
    - ITN efficacy
    - Community acceptability
  - Methods for data analysis
  - Schema for the interpretation of quantitative, qualitative and statistical results
2024 activities: Development of guidance to stakeholders who may be conducting post-market monitoring and surveillance of ITN products

• Review of existing protocols for post-market monitoring of ITNs to identify commonly sought after information about product compliance with specifications and product performance and analyse these against the updated pre-market data requirements

• Working group to develop a document that provides recommendations to WHO for inclusion in updated procurement guidance focused on post-market monitoring and surveillance of ITNs
2024 activities: Development of recommendations to WHO for additional post-market data to be submitted to WHO PQT/VCP

- Develop recommendations to WHO for additional post-market data requirements for ITNs to be submitted by ITN manufacturers
  - Potentially through a mechanism of annual reporting
  - May include:
    - Summary of all batches produced
    - Countries to which those batches were shipped
    - Relevant procurement agency

- Recommendations to focus on those aspects of ITNs that are indicative of product performance and durability and build on the newly updated pre-market data requirements to ensure a coherent data package throughout the ITN life cycle
Activity timeline

- March 2024 Working group convened

*Community studies protocol*

- June 2024 Updated community studies protocol posted for feedback and consultation
- August 2024 Community studies protocol finalized and published on PQT/VCP website ITN guideline page as implementation guidance

*Post-market monitoring and surveillance*

- December 2024 Recommendations to WHO submitted to WHO PQT/VCP
- June 2025 Guidance to stakeholders and additional data requirements for manufacturers (if any) finalized, communicated, and implementation plan published
**Road map**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>End 2023</th>
<th>Mid-2024</th>
<th>End 2024</th>
<th>June 2025</th>
<th>End 2025</th>
<th>End 2026</th>
<th>End 2028</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Updated guideline published</td>
<td>Updated community studies protocol</td>
<td>Post-market monitoring and surveillance</td>
<td>Transition period for dossiers ends</td>
<td>Updated dossiers for equivalent products</td>
<td>All updated non-equivalent dossiers assessed</td>
<td>All updated equivalent dossiers assessed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Updated dossiers for non-equivalent products</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Stage 1**
- Pre-market data generation (PQ dossier)

**Stage 2**
- Centre end user experiences to address health inequities and gender disparities

**Stage 3**
- Product reassessments against new requirements

**Stage 4**
- Consistent, robust public assessment reports available to guide product selection

VCWG, Kigali, April 2024
Prequalification assessment guideline updates

- 2024 – 2026: WHO Guideline for Prequalification Assessment of IRS
- 2024 – 2025: WHO Guideline for Prequalification Assessment of Larvicides
- Implementation Guidance

- Spatial repellents
- Modified mosquitoes
  - joint mission with NTD May 2024
  - development of modified mosquito assessment product assessment framework
General updates
Advice to Manufacturers Series

Communication and Submission of Applications
• Preparing an application for electronic submission
• Use of third-party agents for communication and interaction with WHO PQT/VCP

Dossier and Data Requirements
• Fulfilling dossier and data requirements

Generating Data to Support Quality Assessments
• Number of batches required for testing of physical/chemical properties

Generating Data to support Safety Assessments
• Considerations for fulfilling the acute 6-pack requirement for ITNs

Assessment Process
• Entomology assessment process

Development of Specifications
• WHO specification for source material - New applications and extensions
WHO Public Assessment Reports - Structure

• New structure for the WHO public assessment reports
  ◦ Part 1 - Letter of Prequalification
  ◦ Part 2 - Executive summary
  ◦ Part 3 - Quality Assessment (Module 3)
  ◦ Part 4 - Safety Assessment (Module 4)
  ◦ Part 5 - Efficacy Assessment (Module 5)

• All WHOPARS for all modules published simultaneously with prequalification decision
Submission of Complaints and Process

• Complaints should be submitted to WHO by email via rapidalert@who.int.

• The manufacturer of the product will be contacted and requested to submit an investigation report:
  • Root cause analysis (how/why did this happen);
  • Analysis regarding related areas (is this same issue impacting/occurring elsewhere);
  • Correction (fix now) with completion dates;
  • Corrective action, if application (to prevent recurrence) with planned completion dates.

• https://extranet.who.int/prequal/vector-control-products/submission-complaints
Collaborative registration procedures (CRP)

• CRP is a process whereby the registration of products in individual countries is facilitated by partial or full reliance by the countries in question on the assessments conducted by WHO PQT/VCP.

• There has been no CRP in place for vector control products until now, but in January 2024 a pilot scheme involving six countries (Rwanda, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, DRC) was launched in collaboration with WHO department of facilitated product introduction (FPI) and i2i.

• At present, the pilot involves two products (Vector Guard, Yorkool G3), but the intent is to add more products and more countries as the pilot progresses and the programme expands.

• Follow up meeting planned July 2023 in Liverpool.
2024 Events and meetings – where to find us in 2024

- **January** - Collaborative Registration Procedures (CRP) Pilot Launch (Tanzania)
- **March** - Vector control products assessors’ meeting (Singapore)
- **March** - Sun Yat-sen University - International Seminar on Development and Promotion of anti-Malaria Technologies and Products (China)
- **March** – Vector Control Advisory Group (VCAG, Virtual)
- **April** - RBM – Vector control working group (Rwanda)
- **April** - Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (Rwanda)
- **May** - IVCC ESAC (virtual, May)
- **June** - Joint Meeting on Pesticide Specifications (JMPS, Netherlands)
- **September/October** – VCAG (Switzerland)
- **October** - Vector control products assessors’ meeting (Brazil)
- **October/November** - IVCC ESAC (Virtual)
Thank-you

Questions, comments, dialogue