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WEEKLY EU HEALTHCARE NEWS UPDATE

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ACT-A ACCELERATOR LAUNCHED A SIX-MONTH PLAN AS THE WORLD TRANSITIONS TO LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19

The Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator launched its strategy for the next six months. It sets out how, as a partnership of global health agencies working with governments, civil society, and others, it will support countries in terms of long-term COVID-19 control.

The recently published plan presents the key priorities and ways of collaboration, as the countries are in transition to managing the COVID-19 pandemic as a long-term public health issue. It focuses on vaccinating high-risk populations, as well as on introducing new treatments, boosting testing, as well as securing proper access to COVID-19 tools.

The ACT-Accelerator is a global Alliance to speed up development, production, and secure access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines. Furthermore, this partnership has played a key role in facilitating access to COVID-19 countermeasures for poorer countries during the pandemic. For instance, it provided more than 1,8 billion doses of vaccine to 146 countries and territories. ACT-A plan summarizes priority focus areas for the partnership pillars. In this context, the next phase of ACT-A partners will concentrate on:

- Securing institutional arrangements regarding sustained access to COVID-19 vaccines, tests, and treatments,
- Concentrating in-country work on new product introduction,
- Focusing not only on research and development (R&D) but also on market shipping activities.

Source: https://www.who.int/news/item/28-10-2022-act-accelerator-launches-six-month-plan-as-world-transitions-to-long-term-covid-19-control

ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTIONS ISSUED IN POLAND CANNOT BE FILLED IN MOST OF THE 27 EU MEMBER STATES

On October 28, the Ministry of Health published a list of countries that do not process cross-border prescriptions issued electronically in another EU or EFTA member state. Cross-border prescriptions in an electronic form issued in Poland can be filled only in Croatia. Meanwhile, for the time being, solely e-prescriptions issued in Estonia and Portugal are processed in Polish pharmacies.

In July this year, Poland received approval from the European Commission to launch a cross-border e-prescription exchange service with other member countries. As the Health Ministry reported at the time, organizational details still need to be established with the member countries via which the exchange of e-prescriptions, as well as the connection of Polish pharmacies to the IT system, can take place.

Cross-border e-prescription is the term used to name an electronic prescription that can be filled in a country of the European Union other than the one in which it was provided. It shall be filled in for the full payment and can be issued for finished medicinal products, with the availability category "Rp" (dispensed by prescription) or "OTC" (dispensed without prescription), reimbursed medicines, and non-reimbursed medicines.

Issuing cross-border e-prescriptions for psychotropic drugs, narcotics, prescription drugs, medicinal products with the availability category "Rpz" (issued under a doctor's prescription for restricted use), nutritional specialty, and medical devices is prohibited.

Source: https://pulsmedycyny.pl/recepta-elektroniczna-wystawiona-w-polsce-nie-do-zrealizowania-w-wiekszosci-panstw-ue-1168157

PFIZER AND BIONTECH COMMENCE STUDY TO EVALUATE SINGLE DOSE VACCINE AGAINST BOTH INFLUENZA AND COVID-19

On Thursday (3 November) BioNTech and Pfizer announced the inception of a Phase 1 study evaluating a new vaccine targeting COVID-19, as well as flu. The single-dose vaccine candidate is a combination of the companies' Omicron-tailored COVID-19 booster shot and Pfizer's quadrivalent mRNA-based influenza shot.

The study is being conducted in the United States. It will include 180 participants aged 18 to 64 years, with the first volunteer receiving a dose already this week. Companies aim to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and immunogenicity of a nucleoside-modified RNA (modRNA)-based combination vaccine approach.

"By combining both indications in one vaccine approach, we aim to provide individuals with an efficient way to receive immunization against two severe respiratory diseases with evolving viruses that require vaccine adaptation," says Professor Ugur Sahin, M.D., CEO and co-founder of BioNTech.

Parallelly, starting in 2021, rivals Moderna Inc (MRNA.O) and Novavax Inc (NVAX.O) started developing combination vaccines targeting both COVID-19 and influenza. Companies hope to eventually develop vaccines working against the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and other respiratory diseases as an annual shot.

Source: https://www.pfizer.com/news/announcements/pfizer-and-biontech-initiate-phase-1-study-single-dose-mrna-based-combination

Thank you for your attention!

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