

# Update from the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization

**Eleventh meeting of the Global Task  
Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC)  
Working Group on Oral Cholera  
Vaccine**

8 October 2024

Melanie Marti

WHO Immunization, Vaccines and  
Biologicals



**World Health  
Organization**



# Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization



## Purpose

**Principal advisory group to the Director-General of WHO** for vaccines and immunization across the life-course.

Main advisory board on vaccine policy and technical guidance for **Gavi**, the Vaccine Alliance, and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (**GPEI**).



## Activities

Advises on **global policies and strategies on vaccines and immunization, technology, monitoring and evaluation and strategic foresight and innovation.**



## Target audience

**Targets advise to countries** (immunization programmes and National immunization Technical advisory Groups (NITAGs) **and regions** (Regional immunization technical advisory Groups (RITAGs)).



## Composition

**SAGE: Up to 15 independent members**, from all 6 WHO regions, covering a broad range of disciplines.

**SAGE Secretariat:** Support coordination and preparation of meetings, publications, etc.



Terms of reference (June 2022):  
<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/sage-terms-of-reference>

# SAGE Working Groups



Establishment and ToRs decided by WHO secretariat

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## Composition

Public call for nominations, two SAGE members & additional experts

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## Purpose:

Review evidence and address specific issues in great depth

Prepare fruitful discussions at SAGE on complex issues

## Active SAGE working groups as of 7 October

- Covid-19
- Ebola
- HPV
- Malaria
- Meningococcal vaccines and vaccination
- Pneumococcal Vaccines
- Polio vaccine
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Immunization Products
- Smallpox and monkeypox vaccines
- Typhoid vaccines

More information: <https://www.who.int/groups/strategic-advisory-group-of-experts-on-immunization/working-groups>

# SAGE recommendations on Cholera vaccines



## Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE)

About  
US

## SAGE Working Group on Oral Cholera Vaccines (November 2015 - August 2017)

### Terms of Reference

1. To analyse the results of the most recent research and M&E activities implemented during OCV campaigns since the 2010 WHO recommendation with a particular focus on communities' acceptability, safety of OCV, vaccine effectiveness in various settings, cost analysis, impact on cholera transmission in endemic and epidemic settings
2. To review evidence and propose recommendations for use of OCV in pregnant and lactating women
3. To review evidence and propose recommendations for use of OCV in travelers
4. To review evidence and propose updated recommendations for vaccination strategies (Controlled Temperature Chain, single dose, self-administration, administration with other vaccines, ring vaccination)
5. To critically discuss the 2010 WHO recommendations on OCV use and propose potential adjustments/revisions for endemic settings ("hotspots"), during humanitarian emergencies and during outbreaks
6. To consider the perspectives of development of OCV and discuss the potential impact on the future of cholera control

2017, 92, 477-500



Organisation mondiale de la Santé

## Weekly epidemiological record Relevé épidémiologique hebdomadaire

25 AUGUST 2017, 92th YEAR / 25 AOÛT 2017, 92<sup>e</sup> ANNÉE  
No 34, 2017, 92, 477-500  
<http://www.who.int/wer>

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des cas de dracunculose,  
janvier-juin 2017

### Cholera vaccines: WHO position paper – August 2017

#### Introduction

In accordance with its mandate to provide guidance to Member States on health policy matters, WHO issues a series of regularly updated position papers on vaccines and combinations of vaccines against diseases that have an international public health impact. These papers are concerned primarily with the use of vaccines in large-scale immunization programmes. They summarize essential background information on diseases and vaccines and conclude with the current WHO position on the use of vaccines worldwide.

The papers are reviewed by external experts and WHO staff, and reviewed and endorsed by the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on immunization (<http://www.who.int/immunization/sage/en>). The GRADE methodology is used to systematically assess the quality of the available evidence. The SAGE decision-making process is reflected in the evidence-to-recommendation tables. A description of the processes followed for the development of vaccine position papers is available at: [http://www.who.int/immunization/position\\_papers/position\\_paper\\_process.pdf](http://www.who.int/immunization/position_papers/position_paper_process.pdf)

The position papers are intended for use mainly by national public health officials and managers of immunization programmes. They may also be of interest to international funding agencies, vaccine advisory groups, vaccine manufacturers, the medical community, the scientific media, and the general public.

This position paper replaces the 2010 WHO position paper on cholera vaccines.<sup>1</sup> It incorporates recent developments in the field of cholera and provides revised guid-

<sup>1</sup> See No. 13, 2010, pp.117-128.

### Vaccins anticholériques: Note de synthèse de l'OMS – août 2017

#### Introduction

Conformément à son mandat qui est de donner aux États Membres des conseils sur les questions de politique sanitaire, l'OMS publie une série de notes de synthèse régulièrement actualisées sur les vaccins et les associations vaccinales contre les maladies ayant un impact sur la santé publique au niveau international. Ces notes portent essentiellement sur l'utilisation des vaccins dans le cadre de programmes de vaccination à grande échelle. Elles résument les informations essentielles sur les maladies et les vaccins et présentent en conclusion la position actuelle de l'OMS concernant l'utilisation des vaccins dans le contexte mondial.

Ces notes sont examinées par des experts externes et des membres du personnel de l'OMS, puis évaluées et approuvées par le Groupe stratégique consultatif d'experts sur la vaccination (SAGE) de l'OMS (<http://www.who.int/immunization/sage/fr>). La méthodologie GRADE est utilisée pour évaluer de manière systématique la qualité des données disponibles. Le processus de décision du SAGE est reflété dans les tableaux des données à l'appui des recommandations. Une description des processus suivis pour l'élaboration des notes de synthèse sur les vaccins est consultable à l'adresse: [http://www.who.int/immunization/position\\_papers/position\\_paper\\_process.pdf](http://www.who.int/immunization/position_papers/position_paper_process.pdf)

Les notes de synthèse de l'OMS s'adressent avant tout aux responsables nationaux de la santé publique et aux administrateurs des programmes de vaccination. Toutefois, elles peuvent également présenter un intérêt pour les organismes internationaux de financement, les groupes consultatifs sur les vaccins, les fabricants de vaccins, le corps médical, les médias scientifiques et le grand public.

Le présent document remplace la note de synthèse de l'OMS sur les vaccins anticholériques publiée en 2010.<sup>1</sup> Il intègre les faits récents dans le domaine du choléra et fournit

<sup>1</sup> Voir No. 13, 2010, pp.117-128.

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## SAGE meeting September 2023– Cholera session

- SAGE was informed about the current cholera epidemiology, including the recent outbreaks, constrained vaccine availability and other ongoing work.
- SAGE was presented with new – albeit limited – data on vaccination during pregnancy, collected since the issuance of the 2017 WHO Cholera vaccine position paper.
- SAGE was informed about the use of OCV in the controlled temperature chain (CTC).
- SAGE was further informed about ongoing and planned work that may inform a future policy update in 2024 or beyond:
  - A systematic review of evidence on a single dose vaccination schedule
  - An impact study and a review of evidence on the intervals between doses

# Cholera – SAGE September 2023 observations & recommendations



SAGE expressed deep concern about the continuing supply constraints of OCV and asked that strategies for mitigating the impact of these supply shortfalls be accelerated.



SAGE reinforced its 2017 recommendation that all relevant target groups for vaccination in OCV campaigns, including pregnant women, be considered for vaccination.



SAGE acknowledged the public health benefit of the use of the killed whole cell bivalent (O1, O139) OCV (EuBiologics) under CTC conditions of  $\leq 10$  days at ambient temperatures not exceeding 40°C.

## SAGE meeting September 2024– Cholera session

- With continued pressure on the global vaccine supply and countries facing major outbreaks, following on from the Cholera session during SAGE meeting in September 2023, SAGE was updated on the current situation.
- SAGE was presented with the forecasted supply and demand for outbreak response and preventive vaccination.
- Gavi outlined the objectives of the Alliance Market Shaping Roadmap for Oral Cholera Vaccines.
- UNICEF updated on its open competitive OCV tender for all manufacturers of WHO PQ'd vaccine plus developers of OCV, launched in 2023 for a 5-year period.

# Cholera – SAGE observations & recommendations



Notwithstanding the persistent supply shortfalls, SAGE applauded the investments and efforts by a broad range of stakeholders, manufacturers and funders.

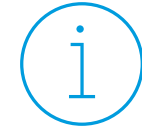


SAGE highlighted the importance of preventive immunization programmes, which should lead to a more predictable vaccine demand, stabilize vaccine supply and enable a timely response to emerging outbreaks.



SAGE requested periodic updates on cholera control and OCV supply.

Modelling of supply scenarios over time should be performed to identify an inflection point from which onwards preventive campaigns will again be possible.



SAGE further requested to be informed of the current efforts on harnessing research and evidence for cholera control to ensure that these provide the necessary data to inform future policy and strategic recommendations.



# Many thanks