

TOP STORY



Love in the time of Covid-19: the impact on contraceptives

There are reasons to think that the global coronavirus epidemic has had definite impacts on the availability of condoms and contraceptives globally, [writes DKT International President Chris Purdy](#). Disruptions in production, slowdowns in international shipping and clearing of health products, delays in regulatory approvals, and general business slowdown are all growing consequences, the article explains, and offers recommendations to address these issues. A timely piece in the face of international concerns, flagging the importance of robust supply chains and investment in inventory.

IN THE NEWS

Midwives combat contraceptive inequity in urban Peru

Peru's urban midwives are using their purchasing power to deliver their clients quality contraceptives at 25-75% below pharmacy prices. Over eight months, a newly established **network** of 215 midwives has sold nearly US\$19K worth of discounted contraceptives to women in three marginalized neighborhoods across Peru. Sustained by a revolving fund, the network aims to reach 525 midwives, who will in turn serve up to 120,000 women across seven cities. The network is set to become a best practice model for countries graduated from donor support where contraceptive use relies predominantly on out-of-pocket expenditures by clients. For more information, please contact Regional Advisor Milka Dinev at mdinev@rhsupplies.org.

Newly released report places product availability in context

What happens when a contraceptive is in stock—an implant or IUD, for example—and a skilled provider is there to deliver it, but when materials—like gloves or forceps—needed to safely insert or remove it are not? What happens is that the safe delivery of family planning is compromised, thereby putting the well-being of the potential client at risk. Through an RHSC Innovation Fund Award, Jhpiego investigated how equipment and consumable supply insecurity impacts family planning service delivery, identified key drivers of this insecurity, and presented opportunities for action. The resulting **white paper** is now available online, as is the recording of a **webinar** in which co-authors Megan Christofield and Sarah Webb address the issues.

New effort to increase private sector visibility at ICFP2021

The Chair of the Market Development Approaches Working Group, Andrea Bare, together with USAID's Maggie Farrell have successfully advocated for a new subcommittee to increase private sector visibility at the 2021 International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP). PSI Uganda's Fred Gyaviira will join Andrea and Maggie as the subcommittee's three co-Chairs. For more information on the subcommittee and its role, please contact Andrea Bare at abare@umich.edu.

Incepta is latest WHO Prequalification laureate to join Coalition

Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd., based in Dhaka, Bangladesh, has become the RHSC's newest member. The company was **recently granted WHO prequalification** for its intramuscular (IM) depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA) 150 mg/ml product, adding a second generic DMPA product to the WHO PQ list and increasing the volume of quality-assured three-monthly injectable contraception available worldwide. Incepta was represented at the RHSC's manufacturers' forum meeting in Kathmandu last year and is looking forward to becoming

more engaged in the reproductive health supplies community.

New webinar series looks at quality of menstrual products

As consumers, we expect any reproductive health product to comply with robust safety and performance benchmarks. In the case of menstrual hygiene products, however, the quality landscape is varied and complex. Individual countries and multinational companies may follow different standards, and reliable accountability mechanisms are few and far between. Small producers face unique sets of barriers while waste disposal, at any scale, remains riddled with ignorance and uncertainty. A new wide-ranging webinar series has just been launched that brings together representatives from industry, civil society, academia, and the philanthropic sector to take an in-depth look at the development of quality standards for sanitary pads, both disposable and reusable, as well as menstrual cups. The recording of the first webinar can be heard [here](#). The second and third webinars will be on **17th March (reusable sanitary pads)** and on 16th April (menstrual cups), respectively.

Global FP VAN team welcomes Abi Beaudette

This month, the RHSC Secretariat welcomed Abigail Beaudette as the Global FP VAN's new User Engagement Specialist. Abi, as she is known to the team, will track user needs; help improve task performance; oversee partner trainings; and help disseminate knowledge. She holds a Master of Public Health in Global Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health from Boston University

NEW MEMBERS

The US-based **Camber Collective** is a small strategy consulting firm which develops and implements strategies and programs to improve public health, create new economic opportunities for the poor, and maximize the effectiveness and funding of the philanthropic sector.

Médecins du Monde France is an independent international movement of campaigning activists who provide care, bear witness and support social change, with the following priority areas: working with victims of crises and conflicts; promoting sexual and reproductive health; harm reduction; fighting HIV; and caring for migrant and displaced populations.

Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (see story above) is a generic manufacturer from

Bangladesh recently awarded WHO Prequalification for its intramuscular (IM) depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA) 150 mg/ml product.

IN THE CALENDAR

China Reproductive Health Industry Association Expo

18-22 June

Jinan City, China

The General Membership Meeting of the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition

19-22 October

Accra, Ghana

International Conference on Family Planning 2021

1-4 February 2021

Pattaya City, Thailand



Reproductive Health
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