



AMIPS - Improving equitable access to essential medicines in Ghana through bridging the gaps in implementing medicines pricing policy

Project information summary

AMIPS is a fifteen months (1 March 2020 – 31 May 2021) collaborative research seeking to improve equitable access to essential medicines in Ghana through bridging the gaps in implementing medicines pricing policies. We will work closely with policymakers and other stakeholders to understand why presumed effective medicine price control policies are not producing their anticipated effects.

Why is it needed? Availability and affordability of medicines is critical for ensuring equitable access to healthcare within any national health system. Prices of medicines in Ghana are high compared to international reference prices. Policies to regulate medicine pricing are at different stages of implementation and to-date have not yielded the anticipated outcome.

Methods and approach

This is a multidisciplinary and mixed methods study. The objectives are to:

1. Understand key determinants of effective implementation of medicine pricing policies.
2. Identify key influences on the implementation of key medicine pricing policies in Ghana
3. Drawing on the results: (a) develop a feasible action plan to improve implementation of existing policies and (b) co-produce policy-relevant future research agenda

We will: (a) review policy documentation in Ghana to understand how the policy and legislative environment for medicines pricing in Ghana (b) conduct a systematic review to understand published experiences of successful implementation of medicines pricing policies in other countries and (c) engage with key stakeholders through individual interviews and workshops to understand their views and experiences and jointly co-produce future research agenda.

Planned outputs

The study is a critical step in a longer plan to improve equitable access to essential medicines in Ghana. The project outputs include a shared understanding of effectiveness in implementing medicines pricing policies in Ghana and a feasible plan to improve their implementation.

AMIPS partners

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- *Ghana Health Service*: Prof Irene Agyepong (Research and Development Division)
- *University of Leeds, UK*: Dr Tolib Mirzoev, Prof Tim Ensor (Nuffield Centre for International Health and Development).

For more information visit https://bit.ly/AMIPS_UoG and https://bit.ly/AMIPS_UoL or contact: Dr Augustina Koduah akoduah@ug.edu.gh or Dr Tolib Mirzoev t.mirzoev@leeds.ac.uk

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