



PARALLEL SESSION 2.5

BEST BUYS, WASTED BUYS AND CONTROVERSIES IN NCD PREVENTION



| BACKGROUND

The world is facing a spectre of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which will diminish the length and quality of life, interact with existing health conditions, raise household and public health expenditures, and increase the burden of care on family members. A number of policies have been implemented to fight NCDs and studies have shown some interventions to be 'best buys' whereas others are 'wasted buys'. Most NCDs can be preventable and, given the generally lower cost and simpler delivery of preventive interventions, a move towards preventive rather than curative interventions could be attractive. Another approach that is gaining prominence in discussions of NCDs is 'do-it-yourself' or DIY interventions. NCDs are by definition not contagious or infectious and people develop them over the course of their lives for many reasons including those to do with lifestyle. As such, they can be prevented if people modify their lifestyles (i.e., in DIY interventions). At present, there is no definitive collection of evidence on 'best buys', 'wasted buys', and DIY interventions for the prevention of the NCD burden that governments, health professionals, NCD program managers, and healthy lifestyle promotion personnel can use.

| OBJECTIVES

This session will introduce an upcoming information package which aims to provide details on Best Buys, Wasted Buys, and DIYs in NCD prevention focusing on cardiovascular diseases (heart disease and stroke), diabetes, chronic lung disease and cancers. This work is not intended to offer a one-size-fits-all approach for making recommendations on NCD prevention. It seeks instead to identify how different systems can create and utilize information for identifying interventions offering best value for their populations.





Moderator / Speaker / Panelist

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Téa Collins, MD, MPH, MPA, DrPH, is Adviser to the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Coordination Mechanism on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (GCM/NCD), where she oversees work on development cooperation, resource flows into NCDs, strengthening health systems for universal health coverage, implementation research and social determinants of NCDs. Dr Collins came to WHO from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), where she provided technical advice and expertise on matters related to comprehensive cancer control and health systems strengthening to the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT). Prior to IAEA, Dr Collins advised the World Medical Association (WMA) on global health issues of concern to the medical profession, in collaboration with the WHO Global Health Workforce Alliance. As part of her work at WMA she oversaw a global campaign on immunization against influenza among physicians and other healthcare workers. She also served as the first Executive Director of the NCD Alliance, a partnership of over 2,000 member organizations in 170 countries with a mission to combat the NCD epidemic by putting health at the center of all policies. Dr Collins' background includes work at the national Ministry of Health in Georgia, as well as experience managing technical assistance for the US\$ 20 million World Bank Health Reform Implementation Project. She also led the USAID-supported reproductive health and primary health care education projects in the Caucasus targeting internally displaced populations. Dr Collins's academic work includes an appointment at the George Washington University in Washington, DC, where she taught graduate courses on subjects ranging from international health and development to strengthening health systems in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. While at GWU, Dr Collins conducted research and consulted with organizations such as John Snow, Inc., the US Department of Health and Human Services and the National Council on Hispanic Aging. Dr Collins is a pediatrician with a Doctorate in Global Health from The George Washington University, as well as a Master's Degree in Public Health from Boston University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. She was a Presidential Scholar, Mason Fellow and Public Service Fellow at Harvard and served on the Board of Directors of the Kennedy School Alumni Association.