

**CDC, PAHO and HCC move forward with the Global Standardized Hypertension Treatment Pilot Project in Barbados**

To address the growing challenges with hypertension control globally, CDC in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and other partners, is launching the Global Standardized Hypertension Treatment Project. This project involves the development and implementation of a framework for standardizing the medical treatment of hypertension. The framework was inspired by successful treatment models for infectious diseases such as those applied in global tuberculosis and HIV management. Central elements include a structured treatment approach with a core set of medications, treatment protocols with targets, and patient cohort monitoring. The project design aims to be feasible and flexible so it can be applied worldwide and complement existing hypertension guidelines.

Project development will first focus on the Latin American and Caribbean region. In March 2013, CDC and PAHO convened experts, including physicians, pharmacologists, epidemiologists, and other leadership from ministries of health, professional organizations and institutions in the region to support the development of the framework for improving hypertension control worldwide.

Key components include:

- **Medication Treatment:** Identification of a core set of medications appropriate for the treatment of most adults with hypertension.
- **Availability of Core Medications:** Identification of mechanisms to increase the broad scale availability



Global Standardized Hypertension Treatment Project Workshop participants, March 2013, Miami, Florida.

of the core set of medications. For the Latin American and Caribbean region, the PAHO Strategic Fund recently added to its Medicine List additional medications from the core set identified during the March workshops ([www.paho.org/strategicfund](http://www.paho.org/strategicfund)).

**Key Elements of Care Delivery:** Recommendations for key elements of care delivery to support effective hypertension treatment.

In the ensuing months, CDC in collaboration with regional and global partners will develop a plan to broaden stakeholder engagement and continually invite contributions to refine the approach. Lessons learned will inform global dissemination of the framework to improve hypertension control worldwide.

Healthy Caribbean Coalition is the local project manager for the GSHTP Barbados Pilot working in collaboration with key partners, the University of the West Indies and the Barbados Ministry of Health. The

HCC is a registered non-governmental, not for profit, regional alliance formed in 2008, borne out of the Declaration of Port-of-Spain, "Uniting to Stop the Epidemic of

Chronic Non-communicable Diseases", by Heads of Government of CARICOM, September 2007. The HCC is a network of Caribbean Health NGOs and civil society organizations with the remit to combat chronic diseases (NCDs) and their associated risk factors and conditions. Membership of the HCC presently consists of more than 50 Caribbean-based health NGOs and over 55 not-for-profit organizations. There are in excess of 200 individual and organizational members based in the Caribbean and across the globe.

The HCC has shown itself, since the inception, to be an organisation capable of executing several projects with varied budgets, strong volunteer support, high level of accountability, and well-documented, significant positive outcomes. The HCC works closely with national, regional and international leaders in NCD prevention to leverage the power of civil society by strengthening and supporting our membership in the implementation of programmes aimed and reducing the morbidity and mortality associated with NCDs.