

# VIPS Phase II executive summary: Dual-chamber delivery devices

March 2020









### **Dual-chamber delivery devices**



#### About dual-chamber delivery devices

- Dual chamber delivery devices are **prefilled with liquid and dry vaccine components**, which are mixed within the device and administered.
- They could be regarded as alternative innovations to microarray patches (MAPs) or solid dose implants (SDIs), and they should not have the payload restrictions of these innovations. However, they offer fewer potential benefits than MAPs or SDIs.

#### Stage of development

- Technologies are at various stages of development, from early design stage through to commercial availability, however most dual-chamber device formats are still early in development.
- No liquid/dry vaccines are licensed in dual-chamber delivery devices. Two liquid/liquid vaccine products are licensed: (ViATIM [Sanofi] & hepatyrix [GSK], both are hepatitis A plus typhoid polysaccharide vaccines).

<sup>a</sup> <u>https://www.pharmaceutical-networking.com/vetter-dual-chamber-delivery-systems/</u> <u>10/PHARMAPAN\_Dual\_Chamber\_Blister\_1.1.pdf</u> <u><sup>c</sup> https://www.webpackaging.com/en/portals/webpac/assets/11138717/neopacs-fleximed-now-in-large-format/</u>



2











Dual chamber blister with frangible seal



Dual chamber blister with frangible seal

# Summary of key insights (1/2)



#### Potential public health impact of innovation



- Dual chamber delivery devices could be applicable to most or all vaccines that are currently lyophilised and require reconstitution with diluent before administration.
- Public health benefits from use of dual chamber devices may include:



- Easier to prepare/use allowing lesser trained staff to administer the vaccines, as the innovation removes the need for a separate reconstitution process;
- Avoidance of vaccine wastage and missed opportunities for vaccines in multi-dose vials (MDVs);
- The devices are single component, so should reduce risk of stock-outs;
- Removing the risk of errors and contamination during reconstitution;
- Reducing the risk of needle-stick injuries.



Vaccine problem statements

3

- Dual chamber delivery devices could potentially address several of the top 5 problem statements identified for **MR**, **MenA**, **rabies and yellow fever vaccines**, particularly those related to:
  - Vaccine wastage or missed opportunities due to MDV presentations;
  - Reconstitution-related safety issues;
  - Difficult preparation;
  - Needle-stick injuries.
- Dual-chamber devices do not improve the heat-stability of the vaccine, unless a formulation with improved stability is used; then, **damage due to heat exposure**, and **cold-chain requirements during outreach** might also be addressed.

# Summary of key insights (2/2)



#### Barriers to realise the innovation's potential impact



Costs

#### **Technology Readiness**

- The commodity costs for dual chamber devices are unknown but are very likely to be higher than for vials and N&S.
- Delivery and distribution costs are also unknown, although are likely to increase because the devices are single-dose and will occupy more space in the cold-chain.
- Most dual chamber device formats are early in development and face significant technical and manufacturing challenges that include ensuring complete mixing within the device and identifying materials with the necessary barrier properties to prevent ingress of moisture.
- In addition, **new formulations and novel drying processes** (e.g. to produce powders) might be needed for **some vaccine/device combinations**.
- Devices that can be filled with the current lyophilised formulation face fewer challenges and might be faster to commercialise than technologies such as MAPs or SDIs.



- **Commercial feasibility**
- The **commercial feasibility of dual chamber delivery devices is uncertain**. A dual market in high income countries (HICs) that might incentivise vaccine manufacturers is less likely for dual chamber devices compared with other innovations (such as MAPs or SDIs), as they offer fewer potential benefits for HIC settings than these alternative innovations.



• There appears to be **strong country-interest in dual chamber devices**, which rank 2<sup>nd</sup> amongst the 9 tested innovations in the VIPS country interviews.

# Dual-chamber delivery devices apply only to dry vaccines requiring reconstitution



Applicability to vaccines

8 vaccines are technically compatible and have therefore been assessed with dual-chamber delivery devices (out of 17 in scope) in Phase II.

#### Vaccine applicability:

Route

SC<sup>5</sup>

 $IM^2$ 

IM or ID<sup>6</sup>

SC

Oral

IM

IM

ID

IM

IM

IM

IM

IM

IM or ID

Oral

IM

IM

IM

- All dry vaccine presentations that require reconstitution with a diluent, or other multicomponent vaccines that require mixing.
- Particularly useful for lyophilised vaccines delivered through campaigns/outreach, as they might enable task-shifting to lesser trained personnel.
- Technical feasibility was assessed based on data, when available, and expert opinion. Key considerations included the natural route of infection, vaccine type, use of adjuvants and preservatives, and context of use.

#### **Comparators:**

<sup>1</sup>To assess innovations against both 'best practice' and 'current practice', comparators were defined as:

- SDV<sup>3</sup> presentation and AD N&S<sup>4</sup>,
- If available, the MDV<sup>9</sup> presentation commonly procured by LMICs.

<sup>2</sup> Intramuscular; <sup>3</sup> Single-dose presentation; <sup>4</sup> Auto-disable needle & syringe; <sup>5</sup> Subcutaneous; <sup>6</sup> Intradermal. <sup>7</sup> At the time of the assessment, Ebola vaccine was not yet licensed and has been analysed as a pipeline vaccine.<sup>8</sup> HIV vaccine consists of two different components: a virus vector for priming doses and a subunit protein plus adjuvant. The prime and boost were therefore assessed separately. <sup>9</sup> Multi-dose presentation;

# Beyond the 17 vaccines analysed through VIPS, dual chamber devices are likely to be compatible with other lyophilised vaccines



\*Pipeline vaccines

VIPS vaccines assessed to be compatible with dual- chamber delivery devices	Vaccine type	Other vaccines likely to be compatible with dual chamber delivery devices
Men A	Polysaccharide-protein conjugate, lyophilised	Men ACWY(X)
MR; YF; <i>HIV (ALVAC viral vector prime)</i>	Live attenuated virus, lyophilised	MCVs; JE (live attenuated); dengue; influenza (seasonal); CEPI vaccine platforms (live recombinant vectors); chikungunya, HSV; next generation malaria; RSV
Rabies	Inactivated virus, lyophilised	R&D Blueprint vaccines
ETEC (ETVAX)	Inactivated (liquid) vaccine, lyophilised buffer, lyophilised adjuvant (oral)	Rotavirus (live attenuated, oral)
RSV; Malaria (RTS,S)	Subunit, lyophilised, +/- adjuvant	Mtb (next generation, M72)
Mtb (next generation)	Live attenuated, lyophilised, ID admin	BCG, other vaccines for ID administration e.g. IPV, rabies



6







**Potential impact** 

criteria

Primary

#### Overview of dual-chamber delivery devices public health benefits based on Phase II analysis Vaccine with an elimination agenda Comparator: MDV



<sup>1</sup> Based on availability of the innovation in a single-dose presentation compared to a MDV the score would be neutral for all vaccines if the comparator was a SDV; <sup>2</sup>To patients/caregivers; <sup>3</sup> <sup>B</sup>ased on the number of separate components necessary to deliver the vaccine or improved ability to track vaccine commodities; <sup>4</sup> per person vaccinated; ; <sup>5</sup> ALVAC prime; <sup>6</sup> VPM 1002; <sup>7</sup> Prefusion F protein



# Phase II confirms dual-chamber delivery devices' potential public health benefits for lyophilised vaccines



Based on the assessment using VIPS primary indicators applied to dual chamber devices with specific vaccines, these innovations can **potentially address several immunisation challenges for lyophilised vaccines**.

- Easier to prepare/use allowing lesser trained staff to administer the vaccines, based on product attributes. This applies to all the vaccines assessed as the innovation removes the need for a separate reconstitution process.
- Dual-chamber devices are single-dose format, so **avoid vaccine wastage and missed opportunities** for lyophilised vaccines in multi-dose vial (MDV) presentations such as: *MR, Men A, rabies, yellow fever. RTS,S and VPM 1002 (next generation MTb) are also expected to have MDV presentations.*
- The devices are single component, so should reduce risk of stock-outs compared to standard lyophilised vaccines.
- By avoiding 'manual reconstitution', dual chamber devices should **remove the risk of reconstitution errors (such as use of the wrong diluent) and contamination**. This should be a benefit for all lyophilised vaccines.
- Dual chamber delivery devices still include needles. The risk of **needle stick injury should be slightly reduced** as there are fewer steps and needles compared to the usual reconstitution process. *This should be a benefit for all lyophilised vaccines.*
- Waste disposal should be improved as there are fewer components in dual-chamber delivery devices.
- The devices will not improve the heat-stability of vaccines, but some of the benefits above might be particularly beneficial to dry vaccines used in the controlled temperature chain (CTC) used in outreach settings, such as Men A vaccine. Vaccines in dual chamber devices will have a greater volume per dose however, than in a MDV presentation.



8







# Overview of the ability of dual-chamber delivery devices to address vaccine specific problems identified in the VIPS Phase II country online survey<sup>1</sup>

First

Vaccine problem statements

Vaccine with an elimination agenda	MR	Men A	Rabies	YF <sup>6</sup>	ETEC	HIV <sup>3</sup>	Malaria (RTS,S)	M. Tb <sup>4</sup>	<b>RSV</b> ⁵
Vaccine ineffectiveness/wastage due to heat exposure	1	3	2						
Vaccine ineffectiveness/wastage due to freeze exposure				3					
Cold chain requirements during outreach <sup>2</sup>	4	2							
Vaccine wastage or missed opportunities due to <b>multi-dose vial</b> <sup>2</sup>	2	1	4	1					
Reconstitution related <b>safety issues</b> <sup>2</sup>	3	4		2					
Reduced acceptability due to painful administration <sup>2</sup>			3						
Difficult preparation requiring trained personnel <sup>2</sup>			1						
Negative impact on the environment due to waste disposal practices <sup>2</sup>				5					
Needle-stick injuries <sup>2</sup>	5	5	5	4					
Contamination risk due to multi-dose vial <sup>2</sup>									
Difficult to deliver vessing to correct injection donth?									

**Difficult to deliver vaccine** to correct injection depth<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Based on an online survey with 209 global experts and country-level stakeholders across 54 countries conducted in Q4 2019 – Q1 2020, top 5 reported challenges per licensed vaccine were selected as 'vaccine problem statements' to be specifically analysed. Numbers in the table refer to the ranking order of top 1 to 5 problem statements. For pipeline vaccines, problem statements were defined by VIPS WG. <sup>2</sup> Scoring based on product attributes. <sup>3</sup> ALVAC prime; <sup>4</sup> VPM 1002; <sup>5</sup> Pre-fusion F protein, <sup>6</sup> Respondents reported freeze sensitivity as a problem for YF, however, vaccine is not freeze sensitive.

No difference with Better than the the comparator comparator

9

# Dual-chamber delivery devices have the potential to address several of the countries' top 5 vaccine problem statements



The overlay of the top 5 problem statements by vaccines with the VIPS primary indicators assessment shows that dualchamber deliver devices have the potential to address several of the top 5 vaccine problem statements for lyophilised vaccines:

- Vaccine wastage or missed opportunities due to a MDV presentation will be avoided as the devices are single-dose presentations. This was identified as the first or second most important problem for MR, MenA and YF vaccines. It was the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked problem for rabies vaccine.
- Reconstitution related safety-issues, and difficult preparation regarding trained personnel should be avoided due to the integrated reconstitution process. These were identified as a problem for MR, MenA, and YF vaccine.
- Needle-stick injuries should be reduced as the devices remove the need for the reconstitution syringe and needle, so few sharps and steps are involved in the process of vaccine administration. NSIs were the 5<sup>th</sup> ranked problem for MR, MenA and rabies and the #4 problem for YF vaccine.
- The problems above could be **especially significant for vaccines used in the CTC** (such as MenA) **and/or outreach settings** by allowing task-shifting to lesser-trained personnel. However, even if the vaccine can be used in the CTC, the volume per dose will be higher in dual-chamber devices compared with MDVs, which might offset some of the benefits.
- Vaccine wastage/ineffectiveness due to heat or freeze exposure were *identified as important problems for MR, MenA, rabies and YF vaccines.* Dual-chamber delivery devices will not address these issues themselves. However, if new formulations and/or drying processes are required in order to use a vaccine with a dual chamber device, this would be an opportunity to develop a product with enhanced heat stability that could be used in the CTC and that would address additional problem statements such as damage due to heat exposure and cold-chain requirements during outreach.

#### Barriers to realise potential impact

11

### Dual chamber delivery devices will likely have a higher cost than SDV and MDV alternatives and potential delivery cost savings will depend on device volume



#### Commodity costs<sup>1, 2</sup>

# Unknown, however likely to be higher than for SDV or MDV:

- There are **no data on the COGS or purchase price** of dual-chamber delivery devices.
- For combination products like dualchamber delivery devices, it is likely that the COGS & procurement price will be greater than for SDV and MDV.
- Previous costing studies have shown that for the comparators, the 'vaccine + vial' price is larger than the combined cost of delivery devices and safety boxes.
   Therefore, the expected increase in 'vaccine + device' price will outweigh the savings in other commodity costs components.

#### Delivery costs<sup>1, 3</sup>

Unknown – will likely depend on the balance between the likely increase in device volume in the cold chain against the reduction in time taken to prepare and administer the vaccine.

- The costs for storage and transport in the cold chain is unknown because of a wide range of potential volumes for dual chamber delivery devices; but it is most likely larger on a per dose basis than a MDV.
- The costs of storage and transport of separate auto-disable and re-use prevention syringes out of the cold chain would be reduced.
- The impact on the vaccinator time costs is unknown but is likely to be reduced as there is no reconstitution step.

# Introduction and recurrent costs<sup>1</sup>

# Introduction costs due to training needs:

- Training would be required to introduce dual chamber delivery devices as would be required with any innovation.
- No upfront, recurrent or ongoing costs.

<sup>1</sup> Of a vaccine regimen (per person vaccinated); <sup>2</sup> Includes the purchase cost of a vaccine regimen and delivery devices (injection syringes or other components needed for vaccine preparation and administration) accounting for wastage, and safety box costs; <sup>3</sup> Includes costs of in and out of cold chain storage and transport for a vaccine regimen including delivery technology(ies), time spent by vaccinators when preparing and administering the vaccine and by staff involved in stock management;

#### Barriers to realise potential impact

12

### Dual chamber delivery devices development are still early and faces significant challenges that will require substantial time, effort and investment to be overcome Vaccine with an elimination agenda



**Technology Readiness** 

VIPS Criteria		Indicators	MR	Men A	Rabies	YF	ETEC	HIV <sup>2</sup>	Malaria (RTS,S)	M. Tb <sup>3</sup>	RSV⁴
	Technology readiness 1	Clinical development pathway complexity		Low	Low	Low	High	High	High	High	Moderate
ria		Technical development challenges : Syringe-and cartridge-based devices		d Low							
crite		Technical development challenges : Frangible seal-based devices	High	High	High	High	Moderate	High	High	High	High
dary c		Complexity of manufacturing the innovation : Syringe-and cartridge-based devices					Low				
econe		Complexity of manufacturing the innovation : Frangible seal-based devices	Very high	Very high	Very high	Very high	Moderate	Very high	Very high	Very high	Very high
0,		Robustness: multiple developers of the technology	Moderate <sup>5</sup>	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
		Robustness: multiple suppliers/manufacturers of the vaccine	Moderate	Not robust	Moderate	Moderate	Not robust	Not robust	Not robust	Not robust	Moderate

- Syringe-based dual chamber devices are on the market for pharmaceuticals, indicating technical and manufacturing feasibility, but they may lack auto-disable and other features needed to be suitable for LMIC use.
- Frangible seal-based devices are at an early stage of development. Proof of concept has been established for oral delivery, but not yet for parenteral delivery. There are very significant development and manufacturing challenges including developing suitable aseptic processes for vaccine drying, reconstitution mechanisms that ensure adequate mixing within the device, and identifying material with the necessary barrier properties to prevent ingress of moisture.
- There are **no known** device developer vaccine manufacturer **partnerships** (i.e. the pipeline is not robust).

<sup>1</sup> VIPS assessment of the Technology Readiness criteria was informed by consultations with the WHO/PATH Delivery Technology - WG, as well as with regulators. .
<sup>2</sup> ALVAC prime; <sup>3</sup> VPM 1002; <sup>4</sup> Pre-fusion F protein <sup>5</sup> Work with MR uses devices and excipients, but without active vaccine

# Dual chamber devices face major development challenges particularly if novel drying processes are needed



#### **Technology Readiness**

#### Regulatory

#### Clinical development. For licensed vaccines, phase III non-inferiority or bridging studies with immunogenicity endpoints are expected to be sufficient. However, for novel vaccines, the same (clinical) endpoints would be required as for N&S or other delivery methods.

**Stability** of the vaccine in the new primary container will need to be demonstrated, even if the drying process is unchanged, particularly as preventing moisture ingress is a significant challenge.

#### Technical

#### Vaccine drying: Some devices require alternative vaccine drying and powder filling processes, and others can be compatible with *in situ* lyophilisation. These processes must be developed and validated for each vaccine.

- **Barrier properties:** Materials and designs must be identified that provide sufficient moisture and gas vapor barriers, which is particularly challenging for polymer-based squeezable materials.
- **Reconstitution:** The mechanism must result in reliable and complete reconstitution. For parenteral vaccines, visualisation of completeness of mixing may be a requirement.

#### Manufacturing

- Fill/finish equipment: Commodity components and filling equipment may be leveraged for syringe-based devices, but additional stopper insertion, filling, and lyophilisation steps are needed. Novel fill/finish equipment will be needed for frangible-seal devices.
- **Drying/powder filling:** Work is underway to assess feasibility of *in situ* lyophilisation in frangible seal devices, but alternative vaccine drying processes and equipment are likely to be needed for some designs.
- Quality control: Novel methods for inprocess controls and process validation will be required.
- **Pilot scale lines:** A pilot line for an oral vaccine frangible seal device has been established, but pilot lines or CMOs for other types are needed.

#### Vaccines

- All lyophilised vaccines might be suitable. It would be advantageous if the formulation and drying processes used for already licensed vaccines could be applied to the new devices.
- Oral vaccines may be the easiest candidates for proof of concept and an initial product due to availability of a prototype design with demonstrated feasibility and programmatic suitability in LMICs and an available pilot line for testing.
- Dual chamber delivery devices might be best applied to new, more expensive vaccines that require a dry formulation e.g. ETEC or HIV (prime), to avoid reformulation and repeating development of existing vaccines.

# The commercial opportunity for dual-chamber delivery devices in LMICs is highly uncertain and developers and manufacturers will need an upside to create partnerships



# Commercial feasibility

VIP	S Criteria	Indicators	MR	Men A	Rabies	YF	ETEC	HIV <sup>1</sup>	Malaria (RTS,S)	M. Tb <sup>2</sup>	RSV <sup>3</sup>
eria	Commercial feasibility	Country stakeholders' interest based on evidence from existing data		No data							
y crite		Potential breadth of the target market	Large	Moderate/ Large	Small/ Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Large	Moderate	Large	Large
ondar		Existence of partnerships to support development and commercialisation	Mixed interest	No known interest							
Sec		Known barriers to global access to the innovation					Mixed				

- Market potential and uptake for dual chamber delivery devices in LMICs is highly uncertain:
  - The **cost of goods** compared with N&S & vials is **unknown** but is likely to be higher for dual chamber devices. This may limit the use case for uptake of dual chamber delivery devices in LMICs.
  - The **market** for dual-chamber devices in **HICs is very uncertain**, likely to be focused on high value pharmaceuticals, and may not be sufficient to support development of devices for use in LMICs.
- Partnerships to support development and commercialisation will be required:
  - To provide **investment in device development and manufacturability assessment**; this could include donors/funders.
  - Clarification of the value proposition for dual chamber delivery devices will be needed to facilitate partnership between vaccine manufacturers and developers to advance testing.





BILL& MELINDA GATES foundation





<sup>1</sup> ALVAC prime; <sup>2</sup> VPM 1002; <sup>3</sup> Pre-fusion F protein

### Based on VIPS country feedback<sup>1</sup>, there appears to be strong interest in dual-chamber delivery devices



#### Feedback from in-nerson country interviews

#### Innovations' ranking



Barcodes 16 12 28

Dual-chamber delivery devices are rated . by both immunisation staff and decision makers as the **#2 innovation amongst** the 9 tested, i.e. have significant potential impact in helping address their immunisation programme's current challenges (based on weighted scores).

96	edback from in-perso	n	country interview	'S						
Perceived benefits			Perceived challenges	Vaccines' ranking for dual chamber delivery devices						
•	Improve ease of use/easier to prepare and make logistics easier;	•	Cold chain volume and cost and price per dose; Immunisation staff:	Measles-containing vaccine BCG Yellow fever (YF) vaccine Reconstituted vaccines Meningitis vaccine JE		42 13 55 41 13 54 6 16 7 11 5 10 8				
•	Potential to <b>decrease</b> vaccine wastage;		complexity of the technology use,	Tetanus-containing vaccines (other than pentavalent) Oral rotavirus vaccine, liquid products only Multidose vial vaccines (require reconstitution) Single-dose vaccines	11 2 1 1	Immunisation staff				
•	Potential to <b>reduce risk of</b> <b>contamination</b> and <b>save</b> <b>health care workers</b> <b>time</b> ;		time required to use the technology/mixing the dose, need community	Lay health worker setting Liquid vaccines Freeze-sensitive vaccines All EPI vaccines Rabies (lyophilised) vaccine, post-exposure Inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV)	1 1 1 1 1	<ul> <li>Decision makers/purchasers</li> <li>Unsuitable for use with dual chamber delivery devices due to lack of technical feasibility</li> </ul>				
•	Improve <b>delivery of the</b> correct dose amount;		sensitisation, packaging/	Number of r	espo	ndents				
•	Reduce <b>missed</b> opportunities and more		integrity of the product seals;	<sup>1</sup> Based on in-person int 2019-Q1 2020 with 55 in						

Decision makers: • training required.







acceptable.

BILL& MELINDA GATES foundation PATH 



# Potential impact of VIPS prioritisation



- Dual chamber delivery devices are alternative innovations to MAPs and SDIs. They
  offer fewer potential benefits, but some formats are more mature, and they
  overcome some of the risks and drawbacks of MAPs and some SDIs, e.g. payload.
- VIPS endorsement and subsequent activities might be needed to advance the use of this 'available' technology with vaccines. Further consultation is needed, but activities could include:
  - Understanding the value proposition for dual chamber devices overall in general and for the different types; syringe-type vs. frangible seal.
  - Push funding (possibly) to accelerate development and clinical testing of lead applications, potentially oral vaccines.
  - Country and cost analyses to provide clarity on use-case scenarios in LMICs.
  - Understand how the Alliance could incentivise vaccine manufacturers to adopt the technology for priority vaccines.



Risks of not prioritising dual chamber devices through VIPS

Without incentivisation,
vaccine manufacturers are
likely to be reluctant to
adopt the technology due
to complexity and costs of
development. In the
absence of a commercially
appealing market in HICs,
dual-chamber delivery
devices might not be
developed for LMICs.



16





