

Barriers to Access to Essential Psychotropic Medicines

Martha Gyansa-Lutterodt
Ghana Ministry of Health

Presentation Outline

- Background
- Access to Medicines
- Supply chain Management of psychotropic Medicines
- Barriers to Access to Medicines
- Conclusion

Background - 1

- Mental disorders are among the leading cause of ill-health and disability accounting for 30% of total burden of non communicable disease
- Untreated mental disorders accounting for 13% of the total global burden of disease
- At some point in their lives, one in four people in the world being affected by mental or neurological disorders
- Ministry of Health Strategic objective 4 is to Improve quality of health services delivery including mental health services

Background - 2

- Mimicking the situation in other parts of the world, less than 5% of the total population expected to have a mental disorder in Ghana, receive treatment and care
- The Enactment of Act 846 in Ghana is landmark legal instrument
- In Ghana, mental health care is financed by government including the provision of essential psychotropic medicines through the public sector
- Psychotropic Percentage Drug availability **75%**
- Percentage Stock Out periods **19%**

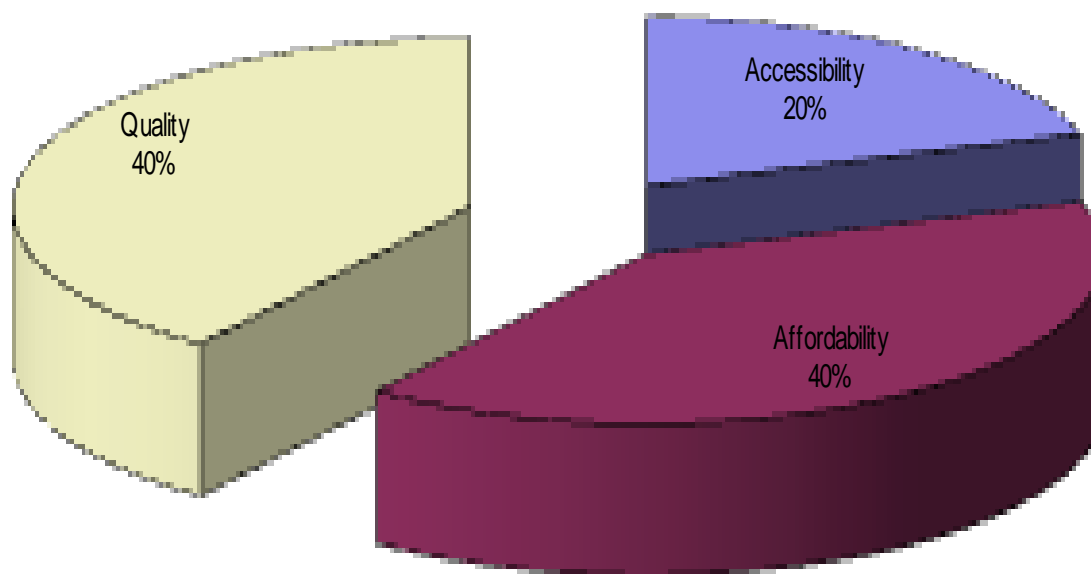
Essential Psychotropic Medicines - 1

- It must satisfy the priority mental health care needs of a population.
- It should be relevant, efficacious, safe and comparatively cost effective
- It should be available within the context of functioning mental health delivery systems, at all times, in adequate amounts, in the appropriate dosage forms, with assured quality and adequate information, and at a price the individual and the community can afford” (WHO, 2003).

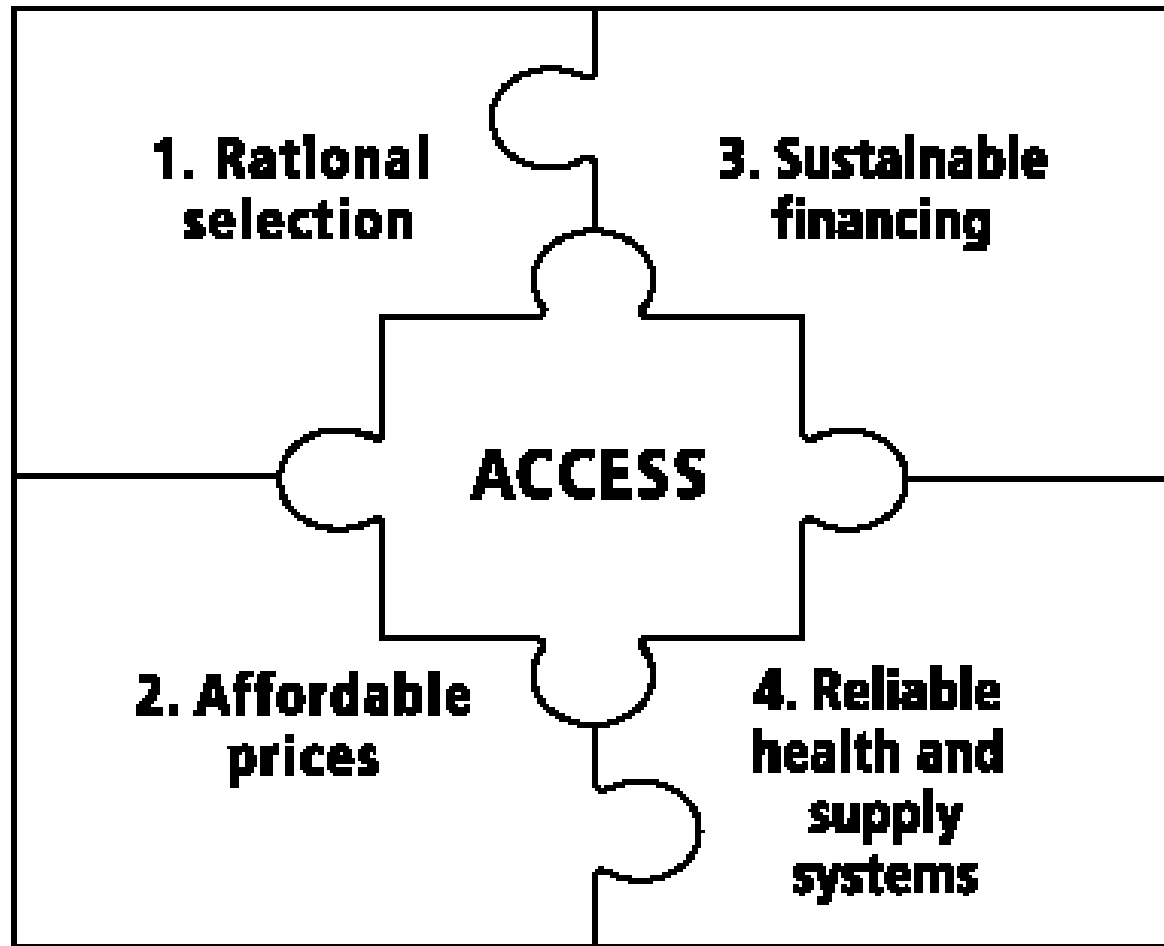
Access to Essential Psychotropic Medicines - 1

- Globally, over one-third of the world's population lacks regular access to essential medicines
- Over half the population who lack such access to essential medicines live in the poorest parts of Africa and Asia (WHO, 2000).
- There is a similar pattern with regard to access to essential psychotropic medicines. (WHO, 2001).

Ghana Medicines Access Problem Ratio



The WHO Access Framework



Standard Treatment Protocols (www.ghndp.org)

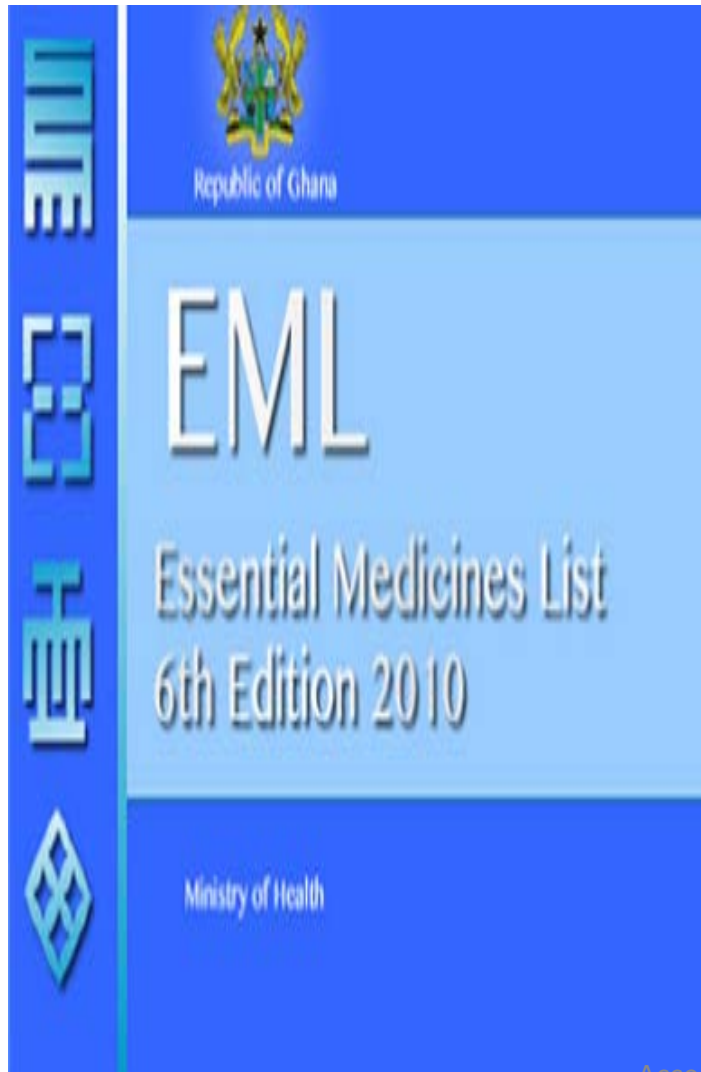


- Have become established as “systematically developed documents designed to assist practitioners and managers of health facilities and care systems in making decisions about appropriate health care choices for specific clinical circumstances”
- Mental Health Experts on the Committee
Currently Dr S Ohene and Dr Angela Ofori-Atta



STG vs. EML

(www.ghndp.org)



- The EML is the 'distilled' list of medicines from the STG
- 31 products of Psychotropics listed
- Therefore there is alignment of the EML with the National STG
- And both documents are closely aligned with the National Health Insurance Scheme Medicines List

Essential Medicines List

Salbutamol Tablet, 4 mg	B2	R	SALSULIN1
24. PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC DRUGS	B1	R	SALBUTTA2
Amitriptyline Tablet, 10 mg	C	R	AMITRITA1
Amitriptyline Tablet, 25 mg	C	R	AMITRITA2
Amitriptyline Tablet, 50 mg	C	R	AMITRITA3
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride Tablet, 5 mg	C	R	CHLORDTA1
Chlorpromazine Injection, 25 mg/ml	B2	R	CHLPROIN1
Chlorpromazine Tablet, 25 mg	B2	R	CHLPROTA1
Chlorpromazine Tablet, 50 mg	B2	R	CHLPROTA2
Chlorpromazine Tablet, 100 mg	B2	R	CHLPROTA3
Diazepam Injection, 5 mg/ml	B1/M	R	DIAZEPIN1
Diazepam Tablet, 5 mg	M	R	DIAZEPTA1
Diazepam Tablet, 10 mg	M	R	DIAZEPTA
Fluoxetine Capsule, 20 mg	C	R	FLUOXECA1
Fluphenazine Deconate Injection, 25 mg/ml	SD	R	FLUDECIN1
Haloperidol Injection, 5 mg	SD	R	HALOPEIN1
Haloperidol Tablet, 5 mg	C	R	HALOPETA1
Haloperidol Tablet, 10 mg	C	R	HALOPETA2
Imipramine Tablet, 25 mg	C	R	IMIPRATA1
Lithium Carbonate Tablet, 200 mg (Slow-Release)	SD	R	LITCARTA1
Lithium Carbonate Tablet, (Slow-Release)	SD	R	LITCARTA2
			LORAZETA2

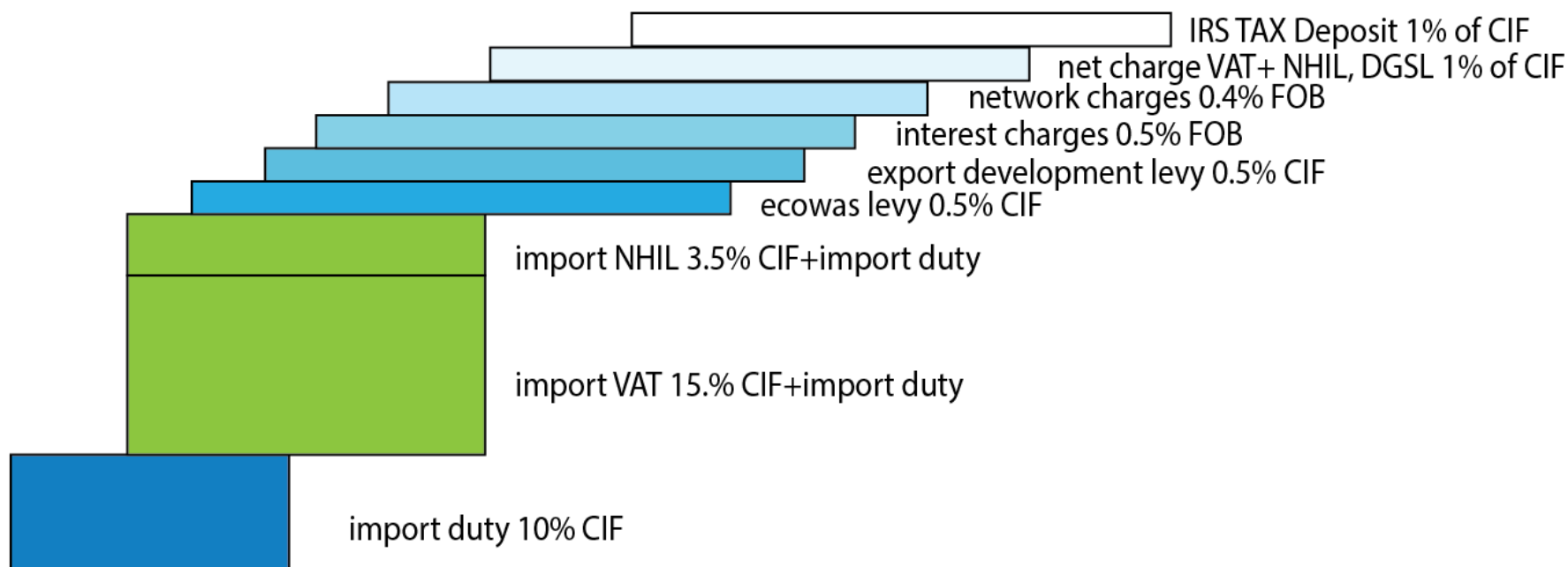
Affordable Prices

- WTO's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) safeguards have been reflected into National Drug Policy & Patent legislation
- Ghana Patent Act 2003 revised to include TRIPs obligations
- Administrative guidelines for legal TRIPS safeguards (Compulsory licensing & Parallel importation of import of medicines of considerable relevance to public health

Affordable Prices

- Ghana has implemented generic policies but willing to work with Big Pharma
 - Automatic generic substitution to stimulate competition
 - Generic procurement
 - Generic prescribing and dispensing
- Promoted bulk procurements using International Competitive Bids
- Ghana has used available and impartial price information from WHO and Management Sciences for Health issues of annual Drug Price Indicator Guide of essential medicines

The price situation in Ghana



Port taxes and tariffs includes the following,

- import duty 10% of CIF,
- import VAT 12.5% of (CIF+import duty), now 15 + 3.5 = 17.5%
- import NHIL 2.5% of (CIF+import duty),
- ECOWAS levy 0.5% of CIF,
- Export Development Levy 0.5% of CIF,
- Interest Charges 0.5% of FOB,
- Network Charge 0.4% of FOB,
- Net Charge VAT+ NHIL, DGSL 1% of CIF, and
- IRS TAX Deposit 1% of CIF.
- Other fees include shipping line release fee, GPHA rent and handling, clearing agent fees.

Affordable Prices - 2

- ✓ Ghana has just amended the Ghana VAT law Act 890 , 2015 to exempt some pharmaceuticals including Mental health products
- Absence of drug pricing policy- Work in progress

Barriers

- Limited capacity for local production of psychotropic medicines
- High cost of newer medications on the market
- Perception, Availability and affordability issues
- Lack of 'access' prices globally for psychotropic medicines

Sustainable Financing

- Limited funding from GOG to improve the supply chain
- All the 31 products listed on the Ghana Essential medicines list are reimbursable and therefore covered under NHIS
 - Amitriptyline in all the relevant strengths
 - Chlorpromazine
 - Olanzapine
 - Imipramine
 - Fluoxetine
 - Sertraline
 - Risperidone among others
- Working with Health Insurance Authority to streamline coverage issues
- Regulatory mechanisms

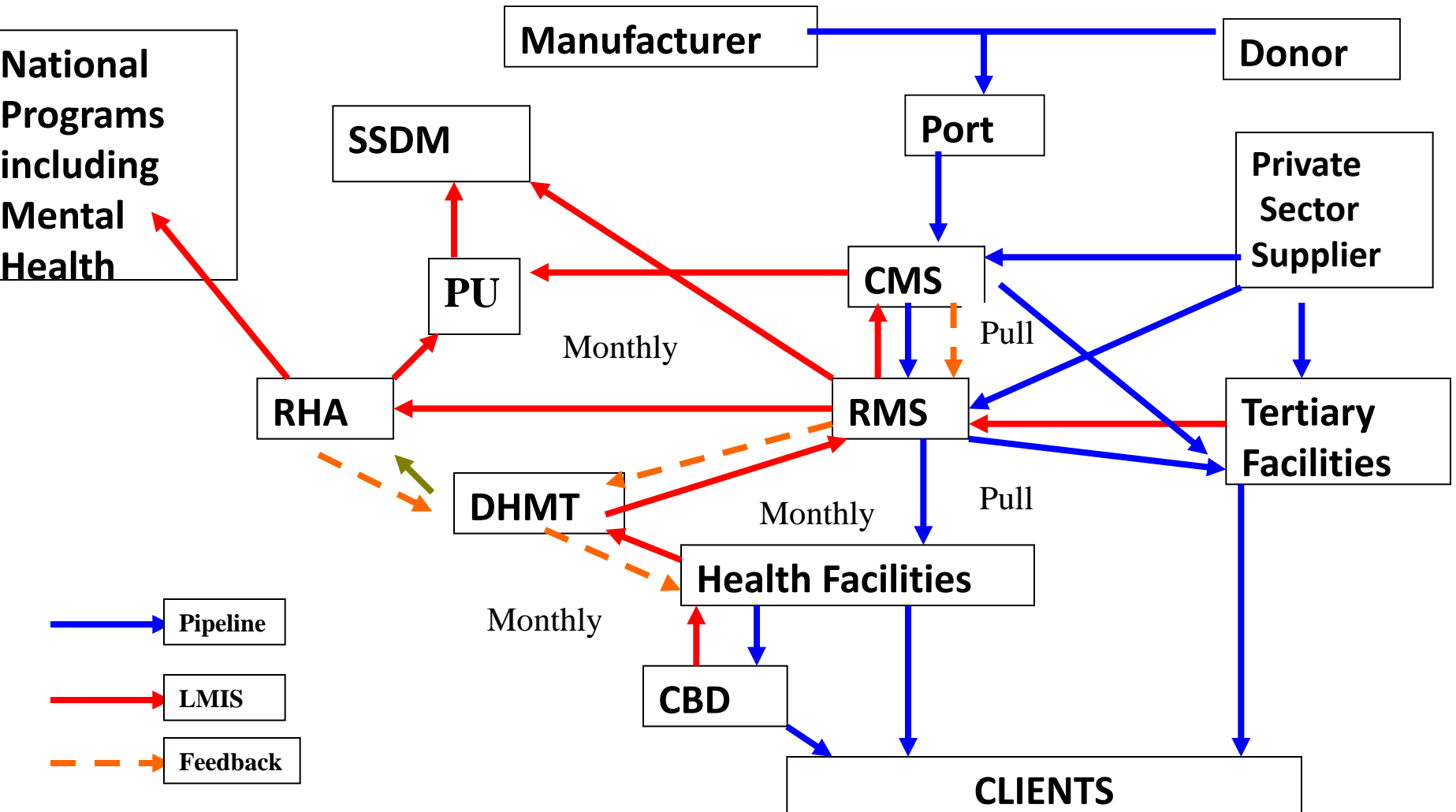
Barriers

- Health System issues- the building blocks are key
- Weak supply system for Psychotropic medicines
- Inadequate funding to support cost of medicines
- Pharmaceutical Care Services and Mental Health

Reliable Supply System

- Central Procurement of Medicines leading to economies of scale with substantial discounts
- Quality assured through regulatory control by Food and Drugs Authority
- Implementation of Post Marketing Surveillance
- Different procurement procedures applied overtime

Public Sector Health Commodities Pipeline and Information System in Ghana



Barriers

- No dedicated budget for psychotropic medicines
- No LMIS in place for Psychotropic medicines
 - Stock out due to poor forecasting and quantification of needs
- Low storage capacity due to lack of storage space
- Getting the RMS to buy and stock psychotropics which are re-imbursible by the NHIS

Way Forward...

- Strategic Partnerships and collaborations
 - Explore opportunities for increased funding for sustainable supply system for mental health? Right to Health
 - Advocate for
 - global medicine facility for Psychotherapeutics
 - Explore with local manufacturers
 - Explore with Big Pharma the role of priority setting mechanisms
- Develop a national pricing policy and explore Health Technology Assessments

Way Forward

- Redesign a supply system for Psychotropic medicines
- Strengthen Health/Logistics Management Information system to improve collection of morbidity and consumption data
- Champions along the professional pathways
 - Pharmaceutical Care and services – quality of care and making the multidisciplinary teams work efficiently

- THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION