

# A Pilot Introduction of the Nevirapine Infant-Dose Pouch in Kenya in PMTCT Programs

## Background

Single-dose nevirapine (NVP) is a low-cost, efficacious therapy for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT). Overcoming the packaging challenges to increased coverage of at-risk newborns with the infant dose of NVP syrup has been the driving force behind a public-private partnership among the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Boehringer Ingelheim (manufacturer of Viramune® brand NVP), and PATH.

As part of this collaboration, PATH developed a simple solution, the NVP infant-dose pouch, to facilitate dispensing NVP syrup to HIV+ pregnant women in advance of giving birth. The pouch is made of foil laminate, designed to enclose an oral-dosing syringe filled with 0.6 ml of NVP syrup, and includes instructions for handling and administration.

In February 2006, PATH worked with Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS foundation (EGPAF) and the National HIV/AIDS and STD Control Program of Kenya to pilot the introduction of the NVP infant-dose pouch in Kenya.

## Objectives of the Pilot

The objective of the pilot was to evaluate the introduction and use of the NVP infant-dose pouch in a field setting in order to:

- Demonstrate use in health facilities providing PMTCT services.
- Assess provider and end-user (HIV+ pregnant women) acceptability.
- Evaluate ease of use.

## Overview

- **53 Health Workers** — Trained and provided services for 4 months, between February and June 2006.
- **5 Provinces** — Eastern, Central, Western, Nyanza, and Rift Valley.
- **13 Facilities** — Sites supported by Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.
- **16 managers, 45 providers, and 57 HIV+ mothers** — Interviewed about acceptability and use of the pouch.
- **National Stakeholder Meeting** — Convened in September 2006 to report on results, with more than 70 participants in attendance.

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*A health worker in Kenya dispenses the NVP syrup, pre-filled in an Exacta-Med® dispenser and packaged in the NVP infant-dose pouch.*



**IMPROVED PACKAGING FOR  
INFANT-DOSE NEVIRAPINE**



## Results

- 543 pouched doses of NVP syrup in 1-ml Exacta-Med® dispensers were provided to HIV+ pregnant women in advance of giving birth.
- 93% of providers found it easy to use.
- 85% of providers reported the pouch taking less time to use compared to previous ad hoc packaging practices.
- 96% of providers felt there was an increase in the quality of services they provided as a result of using the pouch.
- 98% of HIV+ mothers interviewed reported liking the infant-dose pouch.
- 45% of HIV+ mothers interviewed reported giving birth at home (55% in the facility where they received the NVP).
- 100% of HIV+ mothers interviewed reported that their infant received the dose of NVP (either in a facility or at home).
- Countrywide introduction of the NVP infant-dose pouch is planned for Kenya by the end of 2006.

## Next Steps

PATH has developed a set of resources to support organizations considering introduction of the NVP infant-dose pouch into their PMTCT programs. These include:

*Sourcing Guide: The Nevirapine Infant-Dose Pouch for Use in Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS Programs.* A guide for sourcing the NVP infant-dose pouch (Note: PATH is not a manufacturer or supplier of the pouch).

*Training Manual: Guide for Training Providers on Packaging Nevirapine Oral Suspension Using the Nevirapine Infant-Dose Pouch.* A resource to assist programs in training staff for the introduction of the NVP infant-dose pouch into PMTCT programs; intended for adaptation based on individual program needs.

*Instructions for Health Workers: Nevirapine Infant-Dose Pouch.* A job aid to serve as a quick-reference for providers using the pouch.

These materials are intended for use and adaptation by programs in low-resource settings and can be downloaded from PATH's website at [www.path.org/projects/nvp\\_pouch\\_resources.php](http://www.path.org/projects/nvp_pouch_resources.php).

PATH is working with Boehringer Ingelheim (manufacturer of NVP) and donor agencies to ensure a sustainable supply of pouches. For information regarding this project, contact Adriane Berman at [aberman@path.org](mailto:aberman@path.org).

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The contents of this document are the responsibility of PATH and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

PATH has collaborated with Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Family Health International, and the National HIV/AIDS and STD Control Program of Kenya to pilot and introduce the NVP infant-dose pouch in Kenya.

The NVP infant-dose pouch was developed through a public-private partnership with USAID and Boehringer Ingelheim (manufacturer of Viramune® brand NVP).

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