North American Academic Research

The TWASP Press

Review

Regulatory Approval to Community Care: An Integrated Pharmaceutical and Delivery Model for Cervical Cancer Elimination in Bangladesh

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Article history:
Received: **24** November 2025
Accepted: **28** November 2025
Published Online: **29** November 2025

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How to cite this article:
Mst Surovey Sultana Mukta, Mst Yeasmin Ila (2025). Regulatory Approval to Community Care: An Integrated Pharmaceutical and Delivery Model for Cervical Cancer Elimination in Bangladesh. North American Academic Research, 8(11), 372-376. doi: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17795612

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Abstract

Cervical cancer (CC) continues to be a significant public health problem in Bangladesh, with high mortality rates (ASMR 6.7/100,000) and considerable disease burden (8,268 cases in 2020). The present work introduces a comprehensive plan involving pharmaceutical regulatory framework (70% focus) and an optimized primary healthcare delivery system (30% focus) to help Bangladesh reach the WHO's 2030 90-70-90 elimination targets. The Pharmaceutical Pillar must address the procurement, quality control, cold chain integrity, and regulatory fast-tracking of HPV vaccines and diagnostics for this. The Delivery Pillar, which should be led by the nursing cadre, must put into operation these instruments throughout the community, that is, through outreach, specialized training, and a decentralized screen-and-treat protocol at the Upazila Health Complex (UHC) level to fight the pervading issue of Loss to Follow-Up (LTFU) burden. The main factor to succeed in the elimination is through the direct linking of pharmaceutical innovation to the empowered and community-based nursing practice.

Keywords: Cervical Cancer Elimination, Bangladesh, Integrated Model, Pharmaceutical Regulation, Community Care, Nursing-Led Care, HPV Vaccination, HPV-DNA Testing, Screen-and-Treat, Cold Chain, Loss to Follow-Up, WHO 90-70-90 Targets, Decentralized Care, Public Health

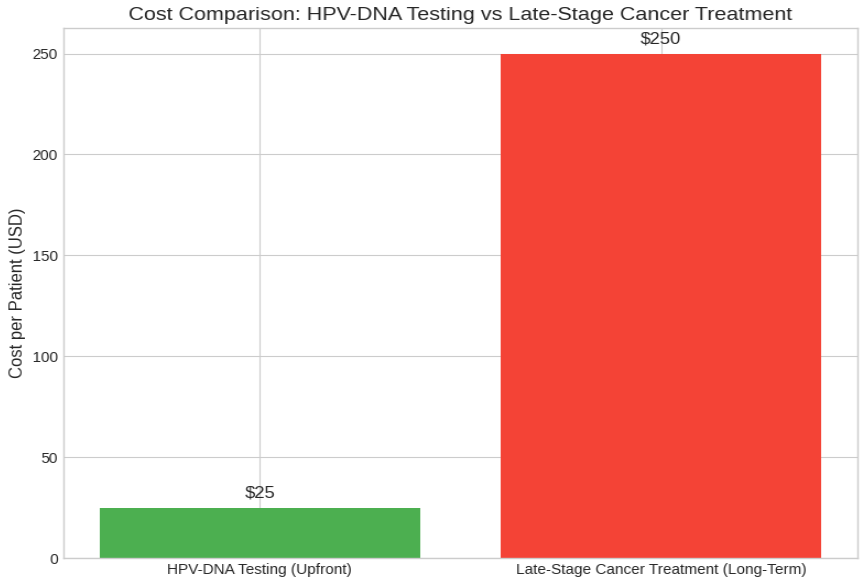
Introduction

A Joint Public Health Challenge

Bangladesh's commitment to eliminating cervical cancer demands a multi-faceted approach. The challenges involve not only the clinical aspects but also structural, logistical, and economic issues. They require the collaboration of two essential health disciplines:

1. Pharmaceutical Sciences: It is concerned with the quality, regulation, Pharmacogenomics, and stability of the medical interventions—the HPV vaccine, HPV-DNA diagnostics, and oncology therapeutics.
2. Primary Healthcare/Nursing: Concentrates more on practical delivery, patient education, community mobilization, and adherence management—the human capacity to execute the strategy on the ground.

Figure 1: Relative Weight of Barriers



(Pie chart showing 70% pharmaceutical/regulatory vs 30% nursing/delivery barriers.)

This document presents a viewpoint that the most substantial systemic barriers (70%) are the regulatory and supply chain issues, which are largely overcome by the delivery of nursing and primary care at the community level (30%).

Materials and Methods

The Pharmaceutical Pillar: Regulation, Supply, and Quality (70% Focus)

The basic obstacle to attaining the 90-70-90 goals in Bangladesh is guaranteeing the provision of quality and budget-friendly medical products through the regulation and logistics as efficient as possible.

2.1. Logistics and Cold Chain Management for Vaccination

The 90% vaccination aim is significantly dependent on the pledge of the vaccine's supply chain, the most crucial of which is the cold chain (temperatures maintained between 2°C and 8°C).

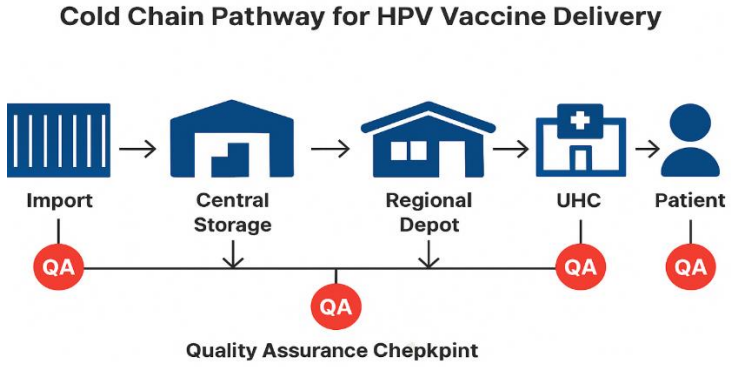


Figure 2: Cold Chain Pathway for HPV Vaccine Deliver

Illustration 2 depicts critical control points requiring pharmaceutical intervention to prevent wastage and product quality assurance (from point of import to the administration).

Pharmaceutical Oversight: Quality assurance managers must track the cold chain at every transfer point, including central storage, regional depots, and the UHCs, using validated temperature tracking devices (e.g., electronic data loggers).

Regulatory Focus: Regulatory affairs specialists facilitate customs clearance and approve the single-dose HPV vaccine as the quickest and simplest way to manage time in transit, which is a vital factor in the EPI strategy of Bangladesh.

2.2. Regulatory Acceleration of HPV-DNA Diagnostics

To achieve the 70% screening target, it is necessary to switch from the low-sensitivity VIA method to HPV-DNA testing, possibly with self-sampling kits.

Regulatory Imperative: DGDA must expedite the licensing of these advanced diagnostics. The regulatory process must be streamlined for their safety, efficacy, and suitability for the local context to be assessed without undue delays, thus addressing the urgency of the 2030 goal.

Pharmacoeconomic Analysis: The pharmacists have to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of the initial set-up of HPV-DNA testing (e.g., reagent procurement, equipment setup) as compared to the future financial burden due to late-stage cancers.

2.3. Assurance of Treatment and Therapeutics Availability

The numeric goal of 90% of the treated patient also requires the availability of primary requisites as well as the access to cutting-edge oncological therapies in the future.

Essential Consumables: The core pharmaceutical responsibility, that is, the continuous supply of cryotherapy consumables (e.g., nitrogen, probes) and the essential pain management pharmaceuticals to UHCs is the main way to prevent stock-outs that will directly lead to LTFU.

Advanced Drug Access: For the case of invasive cancer, global health policy and pharmaceutical regulatory strategies must focus on both affordability and the legal introduction of the most innovative treatments like Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (ICIs). Usually, this means negotiating intellectual property rights through means such as compulsory licensing or tiered pricing, making cancer drugs available in the Bangladeshi health system.

Results and Discussions

3. Public Health and Nursing: The Last-Mile Delivery and Obedience (30% Focus)

The nursing and primary healthcare workforce is the bridge that turns pharmaceutical supply into public health effectiveness. Their role is the most important in mobilizing the population, public education, and decentralized care execution.

3.1. Community Mobilization and Education

Nurses are the most reliable health providers for women that can help overcome ignorance, cultural misconceptions and fear of having a pelvic examination.

Adherence Role: They convert complex pharmaceutical safety data (like vaccine side effects, diagnostic procedures) information into comprehensible and culturally sensitive messages, which is necessary to maximize the vaccination and screening rates.

Screening Promotion: Nurses are pivotal in the promotion of the self-sampling model for HPV-DNA testing, offering explicit instructions on sample collection and ensuring the correct handling thus facilitating the high-performance screening that is necessary for the target of 70%.

3.2. Decentralization for eliminating Loss-to-Follow-Up

The major setback in the treatment pathway is the failure to refer patients (LTFU) back for treatment after they have had a positive screening result.

The solution is to legally assign the nurse to perform the Screen-and-Treat model at the Upazila level.

Empowered Nursing Practice: The trained nurses and midwives do the initial screening (VIA or HPV-DNA sample collection) and, on the immediate or rapid-test positive result, administer cryotherapy in the same visit. This nurse-led autonomy minimizes the significant logistical and financial burden on the patient of the required return visit.

Table 1: Integrated Roles for Cervical Cancer Elimination in Bangladesh

WHO Target	Primary Pharmaceutical Action (70% Focus)	Primary Public Health/Nursing Action (30% Focus)	Critical Outcome
90% Vaccination	Maintain robust Cold Chain; Secure single-dose vaccine supply.	Targeted community education; Direct administration (school/UHC).	High, verified coverage in 9–14-year-olds.
70% Screening	Expedite regulatory approval and maintain continuous supply of HPV-DNA kits.	Nurse-facilitated **self-sampling**; Patient mobilization (especially aged 35–45).	Transition to high-accuracy, high-coverage screening.
90% Treatment	Ensure continuous supply of cryotherapy consumables and essential drugs.	Nurse-led **Screen-and-Treat** protocol; Patient navigation for advanced cases.	**Elimination of Loss-to-Follow-Up (LTFU)**.

Conclusion

The only way Bangladesh can complete its fight against cervical cancer is through a fully integrated efforts where the aforementioned pharmaceutical strategy of ensuring the availability and quality of needed products would work with public health/nursing system to secure their equitable and effective distribution. The 70% concentration will be on the solutions of regulatory, logistical, and economic barriers that prevent the procurement of HPV diagnostics and vaccines. The 30% on the other hand are the activities for the health care primary workforce empowerment by mainly nurse-led decentralized screen-and-treat models at the UHCs. When the operation of these two functions is synergistic, Bangladesh would be able to transform from high mortality rates to a model of maintained elimination by the year 2030.

Author Contributions: At first page.
Approval: All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.
Funding: This research received no external funding.
Institutional Review Board Statement: Not applicable.
Informed Consent Statement: Not applicable.
Data Availability Statement: Not applicable
Acknowledgments: Not Mentioned.
Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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