Purpose of the Consultancy

The purpose of this consultancy is to support the clinical team in the advancement of the WHO Sepsis clinical management guidance and to support the IPC Global Unit in coordinating and managing the drafting of the Global Sepsis Report.

Background

Although a precise estimate of the global epidemiological burden of sepsis is difficult to ascertain, some scientific publications have reported that it affects more than 30 million people worldwide every year, potentially leading to 6 million deaths. Global rates of sepsis are thought to be growing rapidly, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). At the Seventieth World Health Assembly in May 2017, Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO) adopted a resolution (WHA70.7) on improving the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of sepsis.

The resolution requested WHO to develop guidance for the prevention and management of sepsis, to produce a report on the epidemiology and burden of sepsis, and to support countries to obtain the necessary infrastructure, laboratory capacity, strategies and tools to address sepsis. The Organization is also expected to work with partners to improve access to quality, safe, efficacious and affordable treatments for sepsis and tools for infection prevention and control (IPC), including immunization, particularly in developing countries.

The WHO Clinical team is responsible for developing the Clinical Management standards for Sepsis [https://www.who.int/sepsis/en/] that is part of an overarching, interdisciplinary program for Global Sepsis Control. The objectives of this contract are to: a) conduct a systematic evaluation of currently available clinical guidance on sepsis and evaluate if they comply with WHO Guideline Review Committee standards [https://www.who.int/publications/guidelines/handbook_2nd_ed.pdf], b) draft the planning proposal for WHO Sepsis clinical management guidance and c) to develop a clinical management Toolkit for front line clinicians. To do so, the consultant will work under the technical oversight of the WHO clinical team and its’ sepsis clinical expert team. This preliminary work is essential to put into place all the necessary building blocks to develop a high quality guidance. The types of work will include conducting systematic review, writing technical documents, hosting TC with clinical expert panel, and meeting with various WHO teams that are part of the steering committee and WHO Guideline Review committee. To do so, the consultant will work under technical oversight of the WHO Clinical Care Unit of the Emergency Programme.

The WHO IPC Global Unit (IPC GU) is responsible for coordinating the activities of the technical group that contributes to sepsis work at WHO Headquarters. Moreover, the IPC GU has the task of coordinating the work to publish the Global Sepsis Report on the sepsis epidemiology. Under the supervision of the IPC GU, the consultant will assist in coordinating the cross-departmental work of sepsis (e.g. convening the coordination group meeting and providing notes, keeping up to date on internal sepsis-related work, updating the WHO website on sepsis) and will support the drafting of
the Global Sepsis Report through coordination and management of the sections (e.g. sepsis in adults, sepsis in neonates, healthcare-associated sepsis, maternal sepsis) stemming from other expert groups within and outside of WHO Headquarters.

At the end of the 6-month contract, WHO will be ready to host initial Guideline Development Group meeting.

Work to be performed

Output 1: Systematic evaluation of available guidance on sepsis clinical management using GRC approved framework to address any gaps in methodology, content and controversial issues.

Output 2: Prepare planning proposal for WHO Clinical guidance on Sepsis
Activity 2.1: Draft planning proposal, including convening to Guideline Development Group members, PICO questions where there are identified gaps from work activity in Output 1.

Output 3: Draft Sepsis Toolkit for clinical care for frontline health care workers
Activity 3.1: Adapt currently available WHO training tools on sepsis to make a practical Toolkit

Output 4: notes of the sepsis coordination group and of the internal technical group for the Global Sepsis Report; updated sepsis website; input from different expert groups collected and ready for inclusion in the Global Sepsis Report.
Activity 4.1: coordinate sepsis-related work at WHO HQ, including the website and taking notes during internal meetings; manage the input and ensure consistency of contributions for the Global Sepsis Report.

Technical Supervision

The selected Consultant will work under the supervision of the team lead for the Clinical Care Network, Dr Janet Diaz of the WHO Emergency Programmer for Outputs 1-3 and under the supervision of Dr Alessandro Cassini of the WHO IPC GU for Output 4.

Timelines

It is envisioned that this consultancy will work full-time.

Tentative start date: 01/09/2019
Tentative end date: 1/3/2020

Specific requirements

Qualifications required:

- Medical Degree, specialty degree in either intensive care, infectious disease

Experience required:
Minimum of 7 years working in clinical care of patients with sepsis.
Minimum of 3 years working in resource limited environments, including experience working in outbreaks.

Skills / Technical skills and knowledge:

- Conduct systematic evaluation
- Clinical expertise on sepsis management
- Advanced skills of writing technical documents and scientific publications in English

Language requirements:

- Expert English language
- Intermediate other language

Place of assignment

The consultant will be expected to conduct work in Geneva with travel subsistence. Consultant may need to attend additional meetings and those will be paid for by WHO team, as needed.

How to apply and deadline:

Please send your CV, your offer and any other relevant information for the purpose of this consultancy to diazj@who.int by 8 August 2019 (Geneva time).