

Empowering patients in pharmacovigilance

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Preamble

Originally patients were seen as just recipients of care. Increasingly patient centered healthcare and the right based approach is being acknowledged as the best option and most cost effective.

Patients and consumers of care need to be at the centre in all efforts aimed at improving patient safety.

This is mainly because *'when things go wrong, they are the ones who suffer harm'*.





And also because

Patients and their caregivers see things that busy health-care workers often do not!

Pharmacovigilance and the patient.....

- Rational use of medicines and patient safety is the ultimate goal of pharmacovigilance; as such, patients should be at the centre of informed decision-making regarding their health care

And this is why.....

- The quality and safety of Medicines is becoming a public health challenge
- Patients continue to be harmed or loose lives due poor quality, unsafe medications and unsafe use of medications
- More so, with increased access to newly introduced essential medicines, there is a greater need to monitor and promote their safety and effectiveness.

Medication Safety Issues

- Lack of adherence
- Safe use of medicines
- Self-medication
- Quality and safety of medicine
- Adverse drug reactions

Situation is made worse by

- drugs being dispersed without a prescription,
- undefined roles of providers and clinics
- inadequate human resource capacities
- medicine stock outs

Situation worsened cont'd

- uncontrolled advertising
- lack of regulation of traditional medicines and insufficient means to enforce rules or prosecute wrongdoers
- low levels of health literacy

Empowering patients in pharmacovigilance

- Engage all stakeholders to address medication safety
- Increase health literacy levels
- Improve patient information
- Empower patients to be involved in their own care

What have we done ?

- Advocate for dev't of patient safety guidelines including health literacy with MoH
- Lobby for MoH and NDA to improve research & data collection related to quality and safety of medicines
- -Active monitoring of ADRs, feedback mechanisms
- Advocate for meaningful involvement of patients organisations in healthcare decision making process

What have we done?

- Created an active & empowered network of patient organisations to promote patient centered healthcare & patient safety
- Increase patient engagement in decision making in policy affecting quality & safe medicines & related areas-sit on committees at national & International level
- Increase health literacy to empower patients to make informed choices
- Increase access to patient information on quality and safe medicines using innovative approaches

Awareness..

- Over 135,000 people including people living with HIV, Village health teams, youth, OVC & their guardians, members from patient organisations and the general public benefited from the trainings and health literacy campaigns on medication safety in 2013 organised by CHAIN.
- 1500 were reached through Medication safety SMS media campaign
- Radio adverts

EDUCATE..





Safe use of medicine is integrated into patient organisations projects e.g. the CHAIN orphans project



Engaging with healthcare professionals

Leaders of Patient groups met with the Research and ethics committee and bio ethics working group of Mulago hospital to discuss patient centered healthcare and patient safety.

Regina giving an overview of the dialogue



Awareness through sports



CHAIN Football team giving out information on the dangers of self medication

Engaging with WHO country office

Dr. Joachim Saweka , the former WHO Country representative in Uganda gave a key note speech at the workshop on substandard and counterfeit medicines organised by CHAIN.



Dr. Kaggwa –Mugagga ,WHO officiated at the health literacy public dialogue organised by CHAIN



Engage community through trainings



Working with NDA to raise public awareness on quality and safety of medicines



Work in collaboration with key stakeholders such as National Drug Authority (NDA), to raise public awareness on quality and safety of medicines



Vicky Nambasa from National Drug Authority speaking about the quality & safety of medicines

Engaging the public through media campaign



A child who was disabled by a quinine injection administered wrongly



Conclusion

Lets all work together to
ensure patient safety



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