

Training of health workers is great, but SO WHAT? - The ripple effect of training frontline health care workers in Asthma care

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Abstract

The Ministry of health (MOH) indicates that 10% of the population in Kenyan have Asthma. Asthma is not clearly classified in the MOH registers and hence the data is scanty. Frontline health workers have challenges in distinguishing asthma from other obstructive airway and respiratory illness. This poses a clinical challenge for diagnosis, treatment and clinical audits. Amref Health Africa in partnership with GSK, trained health workers on diagnosis, management and control of Asthma towards quality management. A blended training approach of face to face and e & m-Learning was used to train health workers on effective management of Asthma. End term evaluation was conducted to find out the effect of these trainings. Quantitative data was analysed by descriptive statistics and bivariate analysis techniques using SPSS V.20 and qualitative data analysed using NVivo 11. A total of 2613 health workers were trained. In 2018, 23,884 Asthma patients were put on treatment. Clinical mentorship and continuous medical education was intensified post the evaluation with 28,056 new cases put on treatment. The health facility with appropriate Asthma management equipment and commodities increased from 24.7% to 37%. There was reduced hospitalization and 97% of patients were on appropriate inhaler controlled treatment. Adherence to treatment improved from 52% to 77% and community awareness of Asthma signs improved from 25.5% to 92.2% with 88% aware of at least 3

triggers. Therefore, training of health workers and equipping clinics is essential towards quality Asthma care. Patient support groups are important for information sharing & health education and psychosocial support. There is however need to strengthen diagnostic and reporting tools for asthma.

Biography:

Sarah Kosgei has masters in Global Health (Leadership and Management) from United States international University (USIU-Africa). She is the programme Manager at the Institute of Capacity Development at Amref Health Africa. Amref health Africa is an international NGO head-quartered in Nairobi Kenya with a vision of lasting health change in Africa. Amref has offices in 10 countries in Africa and provides training and health services to over 36 countries in Africa through the regional programmes and the Institute of Capacity Development. Amref Health Africa's Institute of Capacity Development (ICD) was founded on the need to continuously produce and develop Human Resources for Health (HRH) in Africa. It focuses on building the technical, leadership and management skills of health sector staff and decision makers in Governments, Parastatals, NGOs, the Private sector and CBOs