

# **PARTNERING FOR IMPROVED STI CARE: ASSESSING DELIVERY OF STI SERVICES BY PRIVATE GENERAL PRACTITIONERS IN NAMIBIA (Poster)**

**Lipinge S<sup>1</sup>, Pretorius L<sup>iii</sup>, Tobias S, Elgoni A , Bam N<sup>v</sup>, Oyedele O.I<sup>v</sup>**

## **Background and objectives**

An assessment of the quality of STI care in private sector was conducted in Namibia as part of a regional study to facilitate consensus between various stakeholders on strategies to improve quality of STI care by improving or creating viable public-private partnerships. Lessons learnt from the study were used to develop a regional public private partnership framework for improving STI management and control.

## **Study Objectives**

- To assess the quality of private sector provision of STI services with reference to the internationally/nationally recommended syndromic STI case management
- To determine, where applicable, the design, nature and extent of existing public-private partnerships for STIs

## **Methods**

The study was done in Windhoek and methods included: a) Structured in-depth interviews of stakeholders; b) assessment of a purposeful sample of 50 private general practitioners (GPs) and c) focus group discussions.

## **Results**

Affordability and the place of residence appear to be major determining factors in deciding whether to use a GP for STI treatment. None of the general private practitioners interviewed had specific training in the syndromic management of the STIs. An average of 86% of all patients seen by practitioners is on a medical aid, the rest of the patients are paying cash for service provided. An average of 56.5% of GPs could treat urethral discharge correctly as per the syndromic approach while the rest did not. None of the GPs could demonstrate the correct treatment of genital ulcer as recommended in the syndromic approach guidelines in Namibia. Only 28 % of the GPs could demonstrate the correct treatment of PID as recommended. In general, patients presenting with STI's to the GPs in private practices are not given quality of care. Most of the private general practitioners do not provide counseling, give condoms or notify the partners.

## **Recommendation**

There was general feeling among the general private practitioners that there is need to enhance cooperation between the general private practitioners and the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

1. *University of Namibia*
2. *Namibia National Department of Health*
3. *Health Systems Trust*