

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

Rahman M.¹, Hussein F.², Elgoni A.³, Bam N.³ and Oyedele O.I.³

Background and objectives

An assessment of the quality of STI care provided by private general practitioners was conducted in Botswana 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

A rapid assessment approach was adopted using 3 sites; The General Private Practitioner's (GPs) surgery/clinic in Gaborone, Mahalapye and Lobatse was approached for data collection. A total of 42 GPs were assessed using the DISCA.

Results

The great majority (88%) of GPs dispense medicine from their surgery. These arrangements had provided a conducive environment for implementing an effective Syndromic Management of STIs. However only 31% of the GPs were found to have followed national STI management guidelines in managing a medical aid covered patient with urethral discharge. None of the 42 respondents were prescribing nationally recommended treatment for genital ulcer syndrome (GUDS); only one GP answered partially correct. Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) was relatively better managed as more than 40% of the interviewed private practitioners were able to mention correct drug treatment for PID. Also comparing to the patients managed for urethral discharge (UD) and GUDS, clients with PID had been provided with better non-drug management.

Recommendations

The private practitioners on a daily basis attend to a significant number of STI clients. There is a need to establish and strengthen public private partnership in the effective management of STI in Botswana.

An STI technical committee with representation from all stakeholders including private health sector should be established soon to guide STI management policy guidelines and monitoring its implementation.

1. *Health Systems Trust—SADC Project*
2. *Botswana National Department of Health*
3. *Health Systems Trust*