

HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR SA RED CROSS AIR MERCY SERVICES (AMS) (Poster)

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Objectives

To implement an information system that could be used to:

- Monitor and evaluate their services
- Use information for planning and budgeting, and
- draw reports for feedback to management and prospective funders

Methods

A dataset was developed through extensive consultation with Kimberley Base personnel as well as with personnel at the Cape Town Base. The District Health Information System (DHIS) software: Emergency Medical Services (EMS) module was used as the software to add the AMS data elements and indicators and for the collection of the data. Training was provided to Kimberley Base personnel on the AMS data element and indicator definitions, the DHIS software – Data capturing, importing and exporting of data, accessing and use of pivot tables, the importance of good quality data and the data flow policy. Future training was planned on the use of information for management.

Results

The data set was developed and this consisted of 63 data elements and 52 indicators that were grouped under the following 5 categories:

- AMS Call analysis
- AMS Referral inter hospital
- AMS Response time
- AMS patient care
- AMS Planned patient transport

Data will be collected monthly and submitted to the Provincial Information Management Unit. An agreement was reached and commitment made that data will be collected, backdated with effect from April 2006 to have a full financial year's data at the end of March 2007 for input to 2006/7 Annual Report. Information collected will be quality checked and used for monitoring and evaluating services.

Conclusion

SA Red Cross Air Mercy Services have an information system in place to monitor, evaluate and report on their services. The information system is piloted in the Northern Cape and if it proves beneficial, it is envisaged to roll it out to AMS stations in other provinces.