**ABSTRACT SUBMITTED TO THE 20TH UNION AFRICA CONFERENCE – GHANA 2017**

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| Topic: | 4. Innovations for Case Detection |
| **Title:** | **Finding the missing TB cases: The role of Patent Medicine Vendors (PMVs) and Community Pharmacists (CPs) in South-South Nigeria.** |
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| Text: | **Background:** Engagement of communities and care providers for TB control is a core component of the End TB Strategy. In many Nigerian communities, Patent medicine vendors (PMVs) and Community Pharmacists (CPs) are the first-point-of-care providers for many ailments including cough. This important community resource for health can also be a vital resource for early diagnosis and treatment of TB in the community. The potential in existing structures of PMVs/CPs can be harnessed as a model for community partnership for TB control. **Objective**: To describe the effect of engagement of community PMVs/CPs on their knowledge of Tuberculosis and finding missing TB cases in selected LGAs in south-south Nigeria. **Method:** Forty-eight PMVs/CPs (46 PMVs and 2 CPs) from 3 LGAs were selected for pilot engagement in Tuberculosis control activities after a mapping exercise. They were given a one-day orientation on identification of presumptive TB cases among their clients, referral to designated TB quality-assured diagnostic facilities and appropriate documentation. Their basic knowledge of Tuberculosis was assessed using a pre and posttest and analyzed. A linkage between PMVs/CPs and TB-service providers was also established during the orientation to strengthen referrals and ensure proper attribution of case notification.**Results:** The proportion of PMVs who had a good basic knowledge of Tuberculosis increased from 33.3% pre-orientation to 87.5% post-orientation; mean knowledge scores increased from 41.56 to 61.25 post-orientation (p< 0.001; t=10.442). After 11 months of intervention (April 2016-February 2017), results demonstrated a positive outcome. The PMVs/CPs identified and referred 472 presumptive TB cases for Gene Xpert MTB/Rif testing out of which 79 TB cases were confirmed. The proportion of TB cases diagnosed from the total number of presumptive TB cases referred by the PMVs (TB positivity rate) was 16.7% (8.0%-23.8%). The high positivity rate is indicative of the referral of good quality presumptive TB Cases by the PMVs.**Conclusion:** Improving the knowledge of PMVs on basic information on Tuberculosis alongside proper engagement of this group through their leadership and an efficient referral linkage to quality-assured diagnostic services can contribute significantly to increasing TB case detection in the community. |
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