



Applicant Information

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Abstract Details

Title:

Exploring Documentation and Reporting Practices in Malaria Tracking: A Concurrent Mixed-Methods Study Among Formal Drug Retail Shops in Hohoe Municipality

Category:

Communicable diseases (Malaria, TB, HIV, NTD)

Authors:

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Objectives:

This study explored practices pertaining to documentation and reporting on malaria and other diseases among formal drug retail shops in the Hohoe Municipality as part of efforts to enhance tracking of malaria.

Method:

A concurrent mixed-methods approach was employed, comprising a cross-sectional study of 57 formal drug retail facilities (9 from Community Pharmacies and 48 from OTCMS) and an exploratory study of 7 of them. Quantitative data were collected via semi-structured questionnaires and analyzed using SPSS. Qualitative data from 7 in-depth interviews were thematically analyzed using ATLAS.ti to identify key themes.

Results:

The median age of the participants was 26 years (IQR = 24–42), with 40 (70.2%) qualified as Counter Medicine Assistants, and 38 (66.7%) having 1–5 years of work experience. Of the 57 shops, 51 (89.5%) lacked documentation and reporting tools; only 5 (10.5%) used paper-based methods. Digital reporting was favored by 35 (61.4%) of attendants, prioritizing a user-friendly interface, data security, and real-time data submission. Participants highlighted barriers like stress and resource constraints but suggested solutions such as improved staffing, training, and digital infrastructure.

Conclusion:

The study reveals limited use of documentation and reporting tools, with most facilities relying on paper-based methods. Digital reporting is preferred but faces challenges like resource constraints and inadequate training. Addressing these barriers through infrastructure investments and comprehensive training will improve data accuracy and reporting, even in low-connectivity areas.

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