Wolters Kluwer

Clinical Drug Information

Supplying Drug Information to Rural Kenya

Used by clinicians, students and patients, Lexicomp® drug information helps improve healthcare delivery and reduce medication errors at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital

CLIENT PROFILE: MOI TEACHING AND REFERRAL HOSPITAL (MTRH) ELDORET

Readily accessible drug information is vital for any healthcare program and, although drug information services are widely available in resource-rich settings, there are very few in Sub-Saharan African countries, despite the disproportionately higher burden of disease and need for information. The need to establish a drug information center in Eldoret, Kenya, to provide timely, relevant, independent, and critically evaluated drug information had always been a major goal for the Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH).

> *Lexicomp drug information resources, especially Lexicomp Online, which are accessible by all team members, have been used to help make immediate and concise decisions on drug therapy for patients*

Wolters Kluwer donates resources to the Drug Information Center, Eldoret

The pharmacy team worked tirelessly for a year to establish the Drug Information Center, Eldoret (DICE), within AMPATH, based at the AMPATH Centre and located on the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) grounds. By partnering with the Kenyan Pharmacy and Poisons Board and Celgene

Corporation, the team was able to develop the infrastructure necessary to deliver high quality drug information services.

After planning, acquiring materials and training, DICE started providing services in January 2012. Some of the materials received included a donation from Wolters Kluwer Clinical Drug Information's Lexicomp application, including drug information handbooks. The extensive library of pharmacology handbook is compiled specifically for healthcare practitioners, including pharmacists, physicians, nurses, and students. Titles include the Drug Information Handbook and the Pediatric & Neonatal Dosage Handbook, both of which also offer international versions that include an International Trade Names Index with trade names from over 100 countries.

Clinical Drug Information also donated access to Lexicomp Online, an internet-based drug information resource. It gave team members the ability to search for drug information and clinical content.

Lexicomp drug information assists clinicians, patients, and students

Typically, a multidisciplinary team manages inpatients. Before the DICE was set up, the inpatient multidisciplinary teams had challenges accessing high quality, relevant and up to date drug information during ward rounds. Lexicomp drug information

resources, especially Lexicomp Online, which are accessible by all team members, have been used to help make immediate and concise decisions on drug therapy for patients. For example, team members can search for information on appropriate dosing for medically compromised patients, access pediatric-specific dosing, and screen for potential drug interactions for those patients on multiple medications. This has helped to improve healthcare service delivery and reduce medication errors.

Educating patients on their medications, conditions, or procedures has also played an important role in improving healthcare service delivery. With the patient education module, team members can provide both adult and pediatric patients with easy-to-read, important information on their medications, including: how to take the medication, what to do if a dose is missed, how the medication works, potential side effects, and more. Additionally, the module provides information on conditions, lab tests, diagnostic procedures, as well as tips on diet, exercise, and safety, providing patients with the information they need to better understand their treatment.

As a teaching hospital, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital has also drawn a huge benefit in the training of medical students with up to date access to the high quality drug information provided by Lexicomp. DICE provides drug information to healthcare providers, patients, and the general public. Although the service is primarily for the catchment area that AMPATH/MTRH serves, the service is available for anyone in Kenya.

With the unprecedented growth of the AMPATH program in addressing the HIV, primary healthcare and chronic disease management of its patients, the DICE helps coordinate the dissemination of healthcare information by promoting rational drug use and decrease the chances of medications causing unwanted harm to patients with the goal of improving patient outcomes.

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Wolters Kluwer Clinical Drug Information is the provider of a medication decision support solution including both drug reference information you can look up at the point of care AND drug data that integrates seamlessly into healthcare systems to power medication-related screening and alerts. We are one content provider, operating under a singular vision to develop complementary and clinically relevant information across our Lexicomp®, Medi-Span®, and Facts & Comparisons® applications.

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