Challenges of controlling Tuberculosis in Rural areas

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TB CHALLENGES

• Are there any difference in challenges of controlling TB in rural and urban areas?

• Are there any similarities?
Mopani District as example

- Rural to semi urban in very few areas
- 56% live in households below poverty income
- Nurse-managed program at PHC facilities
- 10% of patients with cough have TB
- TB cure rate 61%
Where is Mopani District?
Mopani District as example
TB CHALLENGES

• Patient-related factors

• Infrastructure-related factors

• Health Care Worker-related factors
Patient-related factors

- Delay in consultation
- Doctor/nurse shopping (Delay in diagnosis)
- Follow up by private GP from PHC
- Poor knowledge of the disease
Patient-related factors

• No money for follow up.
• Incorrect addresses (Physical address and phone numbers)
• Untraceable
Patient-related factors

- Patients feel better after a few weeks of treatment.
- Side effects
- Pill burden for those on HAART.
- Return to work
Poor infrastructure

- Specimen transport unreliable
- Specimen storage in transit unreliable
- No consistent power supply.
- Results and samples ‘go missing’
- Long turn around time of sputum results.
Knowledge, skills and work load

- Decreased sensitivity of sputum smear.
- Few trained personnel (Mainly assistants)
Knowledge, skills and work load

- Inaccurate referral system (From PHC to Hospital and from hospital to PHC)

- Increase patient to health professional ratio.
Knowledge, skills and work load

• Multi-tasked
Knowledge, skills and work load

- Insufficient knowledge on TB management by HCWs
- Counseling to patients with TB not sufficient
Knowledge, skills and work load

- In adequate clinical notes. (Patients remain on intensive phase for long time).
- Relevant registers not completed
Way forward

- Community TB awareness

- Improved communication between patients and health personnel e.g. sms printers
Way forward

• Intensified TB training to health care professionals

• Peer review meetings between PHC and hospital staff

• District / sub-district data review meeting
THANK YOU

• BE BLESSED