Ethics, regulatory and pharmacovigilance

PO - (8438) - THE KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PERCEPTIONS ON ADVERSE DRUG EVENTS REPORTING AMONG PATIENTS AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS IN RURAL UGANDA

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Introduction: Drug regulatory authorities promote patient safety by monitoring adverse drug events (ADEs). Reporting of ADEs in Uganda is below the average for a well-performing system. Enhancing patients understanding of and involving them in reporting ADEs improves drug safety and treatment outcomes monitoring.

Objective: To describe the knowledge, attitude, and practice of patients and healthcare workers regarding ADEs and ADEs reporting.

Methodology: A cross-sectional survey was carried out among 1,034 respondents from randomly selected households and 327 health workers at health facilities in Iganga Mayuge HDSS (IMHDSS). The IMHDSS located in Uganda covers 90,000 people living in 17,000 households.

Results: Over a half of respondents (59%) sought treatment from private drug shops, 37% from either clinics, health centers or hospitals while 4% sought treatment from herbalists/friends/relatives. Over half (56%) were aware of ADEs, 57% expressed willingness to report an ADE while 43% did not know what to do when it occurs. Almost half (46%) could not differentiate between an ADE and the symptoms, and for those who could, majority (76%) were willing to report it. Only 34% had ever reported an ADE when it occurred to them. Those who reported, 43% had their drugs changed, 31% only counseled while 11.5% continued on the same medication. Among healthcare workers, 95% knew about ADEs, but only 35% had ever reported. Reasons for not reporting were; fear of being victimized or sued (35%), lack of adequate knowledge about ADE (26%), 20% thought it would disappear shortly and 14% did not find it necessary to report.

Conclusion: Patients seek their treatment from private providers. Patients want to report ADEs, but they do not have adequate knowledge. Healthcare workers’ reasons for not reporting are subjective. Dedicated pharmacovigilance related interventions at community level would improve community members’ knowledge and hence ADE reporting rate.