

## Waste Segregation and Sharps Injury Prevention

### Kapiri Mposhi District Hospital (KDH)

#### GGHH Agenda Goals

- Leadership
- Waste

#### Hospital Goal

- To reduce mixing of waste at the point of generation.
- To reduce the risk of infection to hospital staff, patients and waste handlers.
- To educate all staff about the different kinds of waste and waste bin types.

#### Progress Achieved

- Human Health Benefit: reduced risk of infection related improper waste segregation at the point of generation to waste handlers and there has been consistency on the part of waste generators to properly segregate waste in various departments.
- Financial Benefit: minimization of needle-stick injuries to waste handlers related to improper segregation by nurses and other hospital staff has helped reduce the cost of treating waste handlers and hiring of temporal staff to cover for the injured staff while they recover. Also reduction in the amount of infectious waste, hence less cost of treating it.
- Environmental Benefit: Reduced air pollution and reduced amount of ash from incineration. We had a problem of incinerating unsuitable materials as a result of improper waste segregation.



**Full syringes only bin in children ward, KDH, 2019**

#### The Issue

- Incorrect waste segregation in the various departments is common. This has led to the increase of the quantity of infectious waste being disposed of due to the unnecessary mixing of infectious waste with non-infectious waste. When this happens, the non-infectious waste has to be treated as infectious putting waste handlers at high risk of infection and needle-stick injuries.

- In addition, segregation at the hospital kitchen and relative shelter of paper, plastic and food waste is not adequately done resulting in both recyclable and compostable waste in the same waste receptacle.

### **Sustainability Strategy Implemented**

- The hospital management came on board and funded the training of all heads of departments in proper waste management which lasted five days. All heads of departments committed themselves in training their colleagues in various departments as well as new staff and students.

### **Implementation Process**

- The process was gradual. The heads of departments who were trained became part of the hospital waste management team. This helped ensure that all other staff were re-educated on which type of waste need to go in the designated bins as well as sharp boxes. This team also ensured that waste handlers dispose of waste regularly around the hospital.

### **Tracking Progress**

- The hospital waste management focal point person conducted routine checkups in all departments to check on the behavioral change and practices by hospital staff.

### **Challenges and Lessons learned**

- Hospital staff said that sometimes it becomes a challenge to segregate waste especially during emergencies or if they are alone attending to a lot of patients and using the emergency trolley. By introducing small waste bins on the emergency trolleys, this challenge can be minimized. The waste management team instituted regular checks on performance, which helped bring about behavioral change.

### **Next steps**

- The next step is to work with the hospital management to allocate funds towards waste management in ensuring that proper colour coded bin liners and bins are available at all times and that the training should be on going especially to new staff.
- In addition to that, the next step is to work with the hospital management to allocate funds for taking syringes, plastics, papers and bottles to recycling companies.

### **Demographic Information**

- Kapiri mposhi District hospital is the highest level hospital in the district with a population of 297,697 people. It is located in the outskirts of town, the hospital provides promotive, preventive, and curative and referral services from the 36 peripheral centers in the district with bed capacity of 120 and staff 135 in total, we provide the community with acute and sub-acute and general health services.

**Links**

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