

CASSIOPEIA-BRINGING 5 STAR QUALITY HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO THE 5 TARGET HOSPITALS FOR UHC

## JICA - THE PROJECT FOR STRENGTHENING MANAGEMENT CAPACITY OF GENERAL HOSPITALS IN LUSAKA DISTRICT



Ms. Nyanga from Cassiopeia project and Ms. Annie from Lusaka Provincial Health Office (LPHO) carrying out Infection Prevention and Control Data Verifications in the Five General Hospitals.

**INTERVIEW WITH  
CHAWAMA  
GENERAL HOSPITAL  
BIO MEDICAL  
TECHNOLOGIST**

**KEEPING THE  
HEALTH CARE  
ENVIRONMENT  
CLEAN AND  
SAFE THROUGH  
INFECTION  
PREVENTION AND  
CONTROL**

**PHOTO FOCUS  
CASSIOPEIA PROJECT  
TEAM AFTER GIVING  
A PRESENTATION  
ON THE SURGICAL  
SITE INFECTION  
(SSI) SURVEILLANCE  
REPORT  
AT KANYAMA  
GENERAL HOSPITAL**



## INTERVIEW WITH CHAWAMA GENERAL HOSPITAL BIOMEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST MR. DARIUS

As an important input to the health care system, Medical devices should be properly managed and utilized in order to produce an efficient health intervention.



Mr. Darius during interview at Chawama general hospital

**I**t is vital that a hospital or clinic acquires and maintains high quality equipment for maximum efficiency in the provision of quality care.

In an interview with Mr. Darius a Biomedical Technologist from Chawama general hospital said that as a department at Chawama general hospital they are involved in the installation, restoration and maintenance of medical equipment of the hospital to ensure efficient operations of the equipment.

To itemize the work the Bio medical technologist carry out a planned preventive maintenance for the whole year. And a user training is also conducted to train the users on how to operate certain equipment, and collective maintenance of a machine is carried out when the machine breaks down.

He also mentioned that the department is a link between management and the contacted engineers who are sometimes assigned to work on an equipment. To report to management the contacted engineers report to the Bio medical department which who report to management. The Biomedical department also recommends medical equipments which need to be decommissioned this applies to equipments which are no longer in good condition to be used by the hospital.

He further, mentioned that, the challenge faced by the department is lack of funds to procure spare parts and other consumables needed for the hospital because the funds allocated to the department are usually not enough for the items required.

However, with the coming of the project for Strengthening Management Capacity of the General Hospitals in Lusaka District, Mr. Darius noted some of the changes that the project has brought about. He said that the project has helped

the department by introducing a Bio medical Committee. The responsibility of the committee covers all work related to medical equipment, inventory management, inventory analysis, inventory updates, development of the equipment development plan, development of consumables and spare parts lists, decommissioning of not repairable and/ or obsolete equipment, planned preventive maintenance, inspection and acceptance of the equipment. Management monitors the department through the Biomedical committee in which each department in the hospital is represented.

The project has also brought about the documentation of the activities that the department carries out to be in order and reporting of the activities of the department is shared with Lusaka Provincial Health office (LPHO). This has made reporting to be more effective.

Furthermore, coordination and interactions has enhanced between bio medical engineers of Chawama general hospital and other hospitals through sharing of ideas and experiences on how other Bio medical departments of other hospitals carry out their work. He also mentioned that the project has bought new equipment and tools. It has emphasized the importance of the Bio medical department in achieving quality health care. He further said that the inventory lists which are updated by the department help in showing which machines are working and those that need to be repaired. Hence user training is very important to for Biomedical engineers to perform their daily maintenance.

Mr. Darius humbly requests for a refresher course on equipment such as the X-ray machine and how to service it.

Lastly, he thanked Dr. Norizuki, Mr. Shiota and the whole Cassiopeia Team for the support they give to the general hospitals.



Mr. Darius and the Bio medical Technologist team repairing an Oxygen Concentrator

### KEY NOTE:

*Equipment used for healthcare, must be fit for purpose. Hence it is a good practice to keep logs of when the equipment was purchased including the manufacturers warranties and quality checks and any maintenance or servicing documentation that the equipment goes through. This is because quality medical equipment ensures a strong and consistent workflow.*

## KEEPING THE HEALTH CARE ENVIRONMENT CLEAN AND SAFE THROUGH INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL



IPC team in Kanyama together with Dr Norizuki and Ms. Nyanga inspecting the Taps which are working and the correct display of the signages at the health facility

**E**nvironmental cleaning, waste and linen management are all part of the standard and transmission based Infection Prevention and Control (IPC).

Maintaining a safe environment for the people, patients and the health care workers is important in achieving effective Infection prevention and control. Infection prevention and control (IPC) is a vital component to patient and healthcare worker safety, quality improvement and improved health outcomes. Therefore, a strong health system, with a culture and infrastructure of IPC such as improved hygiene conditions, improved healthcare waste management, availability and correct use of personal protective equipments (PPE) in a health facility will help manage outbreaks of infectious diseases

Hence understanding how infections spread and the factors that lead to the spread is important in developing strong prevention approaches.

To break the chain of infections performing hand hygiene which includes handwashing using soap and water or an alcohol hand rub is one of the most effective means to prevent transmission of pathogens within the health care services at the correct moment and stage, this will reduce the number of microorganisms making it less likely to be transferred to another person. It is therefore important to place hand washing basins in the health facilities with hand washing soap or hand sanitizer.

The hand hygiene stations should be close as possible to the point of care. Posters reminding patients and visitors to wash their hands as well as illustrating the handwashing and hand rubbing steps should

be placed throughout the facility for the people to see and follow the process.

Standard operating procedures need to be well implemented at all times to minimize the risk of transmission of infection from sources such as an individual, a contaminated equipment, linen or waste therefore, it is important for a person working within a healthcare facility to familiarize themselves with all standard precautions in order to achieve quality health care.

**Photo Focus:** Cassiopeia project team after giving a presentation on the Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Surveillance Report at Kanyama General Hospital



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