



# MANAGING PHARMACY STOCK-OUTS

Bonginkosi Mthembu  
Treatment Action Campaign

# TAC BACKGROUND

- ▣ Treatment Action Campaign is a non-governmental organization that is advocating and lobbying for accessibility and affordability of HIV/AIDS treatment for all South Africans with HIV/AIDS.
- ▣ Our aim in doing this is to ensure a reduction in the number of people perishing due to HIV/AIDS related illnesses and to that individuals with HIV/AIDS are able to lead their lives in a situation as akin normalcy as their condition permits.



- ▣ Last year it was TDF , EFV and INH and this year it has been Lamivudine which are used to tone down the level of HIV in an HIV+ individual
- ▣ In Gauteng in over 39 health care facilities there was no 3TC( Lamivudine) for a period of over two months
- ▣ In our country we have over 2 million people on the ART programme



# Challenges

- ❑ In some health care facilities patients were turned away for 3 weeks as all ARV's were out of stock
- ❑ In others patients were given a 3 to 7 day supply of ART .
- ❑ In others as well patients were given prescriptions to go and buy the treatment.
- ❑ In some facilities health care workers were forced by circumstances to prescribe FDC and most of them were taken to hearing.
- ❑ Women who are breastfeeding ended up stopping their babies breast milk due to them having defaulted to treatment due to shortages, however when we ask them if they will afford to buy formula milk as their babies will require more as they grow and it is not mix feeding , they start to bounce into tears as they will not afford.

- ❑ Some health care workers we giving Lamzid, Tenofovir and Efavirenz / Nevirapine of which is totally wrong {Instead of giving 3 drugs , they were now giving four drugs because they do not want patients to be turned back to default without treatment , however as they are wrong they also have to attend hearings.
- ❑ Remember all this patients most are unemployed and have no source of income, some in their areas do not have clinics they really have to walk more than 3 kilometres to go to the clinics whilst others cannot even walk have to spend the monies that they do not have, the result of this is seeing high number of defaulter rate as people do not have money to spent for nothing.
- ❑ The national department of health is giving emergency grant for ARV'S but for how long and how are they going to sustain that is not yet clear ,showing that the problem is just a beginning the worse is still to come.

# Depots

- ▣ In Nigel Depot- there is no space
  - They cannot deal with all the needs for the health care facilities that they are servicing
  - There are not enough delivery cars they only have one car that deliver in the whole of Ekurhuleni
  
- ▣ In Auckland Park
  - The depot was being renovated
  - It also had a small space.
  - All this is what we are getting from the staff in the depo's and the MEC.
  - Our worry is how does the NDOH intervene in assisting whilst each and every province is granted money for treatment, where is that money for is only to be used for treatment and nothing else.

# Response from GP MEC for Health

- ▣ According to the MEC for health in the province
  - They will supply ARV's directly to regional hospitals in Ekurhuleni
  - The Bertha Gxowa Hospital- will only supply to local health care facilities
  - All ARV's will be stored in Berta Gxowa Hospital in Germiston- they will be moved from Nigel Depo because of the storage.
  - Currently there is enough supply of ARV's as patients are given two months supply. It will increase to 3 months supply in August or September.



- ▣ The report that we got from NDoH was
  - Gauteng procure less medicines.
  - Medicines are available in the Midrand Depo which is a national depot



# Conclusion

- ▣ We are not experiencing stock outs of ARV's and TB medication only
- ▣ But also
  - Staff shortages
  - Essential Medicines
  - Vaccines for Children such as
    - ▣ Pentaxium
  - Our clinics are too small with no infection control, sometimes in some of the clinics you won't find hygienic detergent nor gloves.

# TAC STANDS

- ▣ We are very sad with the health system nationally as this problem is not only in Gauteng.
- ▣ We will continue to advocate for the rights of the poor and those who are in need of treatment as this is violation of human rights in the constitution of country.
- ▣ We have realised that sitting around the table is waste of time and we will go back to the streets as we did before.
- ▣ Our vision and mission is to save peoples lives so if people continues dying then that is our business.

# Thank you

- ▣ Ngiyabonga
- ▣ Ke a leboha
- ▣ Baie Dankie



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