



SIAPS Support with New Tool Speeds up Reporting at Pharmaceutical Depot in Limpopo

With the planned introduction of National Health Insurance to provide all citizens in the country with universal access to health care services, effective pharmaceutical services are critical. The availability of reliable pharmaceutical management information is a cornerstone of the delivery of effective services. In this regard, Masinge's sentiments speak clearly to the need and importance of easy to use and effective report-generating software.

"Thank you for installing InfoMaker.® It is a powerful, efficient, and helpful tool to create reports. I would recommend installation of InfoMaker to all the depots—it will definitely add value and save time."



Maureen Masinge,
ARV Monitor, National
Department of Health.

Working with the Limpopo Department of Health, the USAID-funded Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS) Program installed InfoMaker—an off-the-shelf report generator—at the Pharmaceutical Depot in the province.

InfoMaker has significantly reduced the time taken to generate a wide range of reports compared to the previous approach, with which only a few reports could be produced from the system. Before that, the Pharmaceutical Depot required the intervention of an outside service provider to generate reports. The process was often lengthy and resulted in additional costs to the depot. Today, report generation has been streamlined through the use of InfoMaker and the province has no difficulty in responding promptly whenever there is a need for stock reports to be produced.

After installation of the tool, SIAPS mentored senior personnel from the Pharmaceutical Depot on how to use InfoMaker. Reports needed to inform decision-making for medicine supply management within the province are generated on a monthly basis. These reports provide information on a range of factors including availability of stocks of medicine at the depot, the rates at which stock is being consumed, items with a high turnover, and expenditures. Reports are also submitted to the National Department of Health (NDoH) on a routine basis.

SIAPS has contributed to the development and use of systems for requesting and receiving pharmaceutical management information at national, provincial, and facility levels. SIAPS has facilitated the installation of the InfoMaker software at six of the 10 public sector Pharmaceutical Depots—Limpopo, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, and Gauteng Province—and at the office of the Directorate: Affordable Medicines at NDoH. As was the case in Limpopo, Infomaker has enabled the other five provincial depots to send information reports to the NDoH, providing policy makers with oversight on the status of pharmaceutical services countrywide.

Because Infomaker is an off-the-shelf software, depots will be able to sustain use of the tool with minimal support in the medium to long term. The enthusiasm shown by Maureen based on her experience using the tool builds a case for the continued use of software that facilitates ease of generating reports within the Pharmaceutical Depots.



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