National TB Control Program Pakistan: Making Private Pharmacies Part of Health System

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The Challenge: KAP Study Pakistan (1)

Baseline study of 129 chemists in four major urban areas in Pakistan, August 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have you heard of Pakistan NTP?</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you heard of TB DOTS?</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you heard of MDR TB?</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you see clients with TB symptoms at your chemist?</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there any IEC materials on TB available in the chemist?</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you received any training on TB in the past 2 years?</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Do you see clients at chemists with doctors prescription for TB medicines?

- Yes: 97%
- No: 3%

Most frequently sold TB medicines at the chemists:

- 4-FDC: RHZE combination: 97%
- 3-FDC:RHE: 3%
Rationale

Potential to enhance TB case detection and notification
- In line with NSP 2020 for universal access to TB services
- Compliments other PPM components and promotes an integrated approach
- Pharmacies are partially regulated in quite unregulated private sector
- Legislation for TB notification and ban OTC sale of ATT
- Evidence from other countries
- Research supports the potential role of community pharmacies in overall health care delivery
The Strategy

- Key stakeholder involvement
- District health to lead
- Consensus on roles
- Capacity building of pharmacy staff
- Linking pharmacies with DOTS facility
- Pharmacy schools for supervision

Stakeholder Involvement and Coordination—Everyone is on Board!

STRATEGY ENDORSED
Selection Criteria

- High TB burden or densely populated areas
- High sales volume (clients load)
- Presence of a pharmacist/pharmacy technician at the pharmacy
- Within geographic areas with public or private sector DOTS facility
- Willingness to participate and sign an MOU
The Process

- Selection and MoU with Pharmacy
- Training of Pharmacy staff
- Establish referral mechanism Pharmacy-DOTS Facility
- Identification of Presumptive TB case and referral to DOTS facility
- Registration of diagnosed TB case at DOTS facility

Coordination

Monitoring

Pharmacies

NTP Notification System
## Results in Two Months (1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lahore</th>
<th>Rawalpindi</th>
<th>Peshawar</th>
<th>Sukkar</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Referrals with missing information</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referrals that were tracked</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Smear positive</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Smear negative</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In process</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total referrals</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>316</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results in Two Months (2)

Status of Referral Cases

- 52% Positive cases
- 13% In Process
- 35% Negative Cases

Positive cases  Negative Cases  In Process
Challenges and Solutions

• Additional responsibility at district health authorities
• Cooperation of retail pharmacies
• Attitude of DOTS facilities
• Linkages with DOTS facilities
• Incorrect filling of referral forms
• Lack of information material at pharmacy
• Security situation in some areas
• Funding for the activities

• Enabling district health
• Peer pressure at pharmacies
• Implementation of TB notification legislation
• Enhanced coordination with DOTS facility
• Role of intermediate body for supervision
• Tapping CSR of pharmaceutical industry
What is Next?

- Capitalize at pharmacies in implementation of legislation for TB notification
- Engaging pharmaceutical companies
- Lessons learnt for expansion elsewhere
- Resource mobilization for expansion
Together We Can!