

GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

## AIDS Healthcare Foundation

### Development and implementation of an antimicrobial stewardship program in Maputsoe SDA Clinic in Lesotho



Maputsoe Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) clinic is an urban-based primary healthcare facility that is run by Maluti Adventist Hospital (MAH). Maputsoe SDA clinic is supported by AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF Lesotho) to ensure high-quality patient care with focus in HIV/AIDS and treatment of opportunistic infections (TB, STIs, Cervical Cancer Screening, etc.) that is associated with the use of antimicrobials for their treatment. This makes the task of antimicrobial stewardship imperative, although it may be complex.

In recent years, the quality improvement committee of the clinic has identified the need to shift its focus towards infection prevention control and antimicrobial stewardship (AMS). The project was created to develop and implement a formal AMS program in the clinic; to improve appropriate antimicrobial prescribing in the clinic; and develop an interdisciplinary collaboration model between clinicians, the laboratory and pharmacy departments. As part of the project we are able to measure the quality of antimicrobial prescribing and antimicrobial resistance at Maputsoe SDA Clinic with specific interest in antibiotics in the treatment of VDS, UDS, and UTI, as well as implement and monitor

the impact of AMS strategies on appropriate antimicrobial prescribing and patient outcomes.

The clinic has development of AMS policy statement to guide antimicrobial stewardship in the Clinic. This has promoted vigilance among healthcare workers regarding antibiotic prescribing, dispensing use, and handling, and great feedback has been obtained as everyone sees it as their responsibility to learn and teach their patients about appropriate use of antibiotics.

We have some baseline data that demonstrated the local antimicrobial susceptibility patterns to commonly used antibiotics in the clinic. This will help guide antibiotic prescribing decision making. The project has improved the diagnostic capacity to confirm the diagnosis of the target infections (UDS, VDS, and UTI), which was not feasible before.

Education has been provided to 185 healthcare workers and 1103 patients to improve awareness of AMS.

Global Bridges has provided us with technical and moral support and a platform to exchange knowledge and skills, share information and ways to address the challenges among ourselves as grantee organizations. Global Bridges has always been there to answer questions and provide guidance on matters concerning the project.



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