



health

Department:  
Health  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

UMKHANYAKUDE HEALTH DISTRICT

Zigeleza noMsele

NEWS

STAY INFORMED

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## Mseleni Hospital Pharmacist reduces the cost of delivering services



Mseleni Hospital Pharmacist Aloysius Abahamye receiving an award from Minister for Department of Public Service & Administration Faith Muthambi.

**M**seleni Hospital Pharmacist Aloysius Abahamye was crowned an award at CPSI Public Sector Innovation Awards by Minister for Department of Public Service & Administration Faith Muthambi. The award was based his project of:

***Cost Comparison between Repackaging Bulk Oral Solid Medicines at Provincial Pharmaceutical Depots and Purchasing***

### ***Manufacturer Prepared Patient-ready Packs Available on the National Contracts in South Africa.***

Aloysius Abahamye indicated that through shortage of pharmacists, most of the dispensing work is being performed by nurses (mainly at PHCs). Furthermore, nurses, do not receive training in dispensing to the extent that pharmacists do. However, registered nurses dispense medicines which are in their original or in a pre-packed form. Therefore, all medicines available to the

PHC facilities should be available in Patient Ready Packs. This project helped to determine if repackaging is the cheaper option to make Patient Ready Packs available to public facilities.

Dispensing patient-ready packs (PRPs) generates several benefits:

**1. Saves time**

Many quality monitoring programmes use the concept of waiting time as the principal index of access to healthcare. In order to promote the rational use of medicines, efforts should be made to reduce time spent on other components of dispensing, with an aim of increasing time available for patient counseling. Hence, use of patient-ready packs promotes safer, easier and faster dispensing processes. This frees the dispenser from routine tablet counting, which allows more time for communication with patients. This also reduces patient waiting times.

**2. Minimizes errors**

Repackaging medicines into smaller containers, printing and sticking of labels to the new containers is a tedious activity that is prone to error, and dispensing errors may be reduced if pharmacists do not have to repackage medicines during dispensing

Aloysius Abahamye & Mr. V.A. Zikhali (IPC Manager District Office) receiving an award on Antibiotic Stewardship in 2015



**3. Enhances adherence to prescribed medicine regimens**

Patient-ready packs simplify dispensing for multi-drug treatment resulting in improved adherence to recommended regimens.

**4. Generates public health benefits**

At the population level, non-adherence results in medication wastage and increases health-care costs and drug resistance in the case of incompletely treated infectious conditions. Adherence to prescribed medication regimens by patients is easily achieved when medicines are dispensed in PRPs, which results in patients taking their full treatment regimens, thereby preventing the development of resistance and extending the time before it will be necessary to switch to a more expensive medicine, usually second-line treatment. This potentially reduces costs to the whole health care system. When PRPs are used, fewer medicine units



are dispensed and excess consumption is eliminated. This minimizes medicine shortages at health facilities, which would otherwise contribute to poor utilization of public health facilities. Aloysius Abahamye is no stranger to awards; in 2015 he was crowned 2nd position for his presentation on Antibiotic Stewardship.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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