

## **DRUG STORES AND YOU**

A drug store is an outlet that is permitted to operate within a very restricted medicine range said Arnold Phiri pharmacist at Arthur Davison Hospital in Ndola. Speaking during a CSO workshop at Fatmols Lodge Mr Phiri said a drug store becomes an illegal drug store when it sells medicines not on the agreed list.

He outlined the effects of illegal drug stores as sell of POM medicines as they buy drugs from unregistered manufacturers/ brief case suppliers. They have poor storage of drugs and do not provide drug counseling and hence all this might lead to treatment failure and may even lead to death of a patient.



**Mr Phiri making his presentation during the workshop at Fatmols Lodge in Ndola on 29 August 2013**

### **Combating the Problem**

And to combat the problem requires more Registered Pharmacies in the outskirts of towns and cities and the establishment of more offices for the Regulatory Authority in different districts/ towns. This also

requires employment of more inspectors to fight corruption. Other measures require the prevention of erratic supply of drugs and Stiff punishment for offenders.

### **ADDO Model**

The Accredited Drug Dispensing Outlet (ADDO) is a model implemented in Tanzania. The goal of the ADDO program was to increase access to essentials medicines through utilization of the private sector using an ADDO authorized medicines list. The programme was funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2000 and aimed at decentralizing drug distribution and a decentralized regulatory oversight.

In Zambia a new law redefining the Regulatory Authority as Zambia Medicines regulatory Authority (ZAMRA) has adopted this model renaming it as Health Shops.

### **MINIMUM STANDARDS**

The minimum standards required for drug stores and the new Health Shops include location and building, personnel training and continuing education, Drug availability, Drug quality, Stock control, handling and record keeping and Sanitation and hygiene of the premises and personnel.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

MeTA Zambia in its pilot phase position paper recommended that the stock outs of essential medicines being experienced in Zambian health facilities could be reduced or minimized by adopting the ADDO program. The Zambia Government agrees and the recommendation is being implemented as Health Shops.

### **CONCLUSION**

MeTA Zambia in its position paper recognized that every Zambian has a right to quality, accessible, affordable and effective medicine. .Hence, the paper proposed that the Ministry of Health should aim at finding a sustainable solution in particular through the Pharmaceutical Regulatory Authority (now ZAMRA) as well as other related stakeholders in the Pharmaceutical Industry.



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