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46th Annual Paediatric Society Symposium: 8-9th September Hilton Hotel Port Moresby

Theme: Towards Standardization in Child Health for Quality Improvement.

The PNGPS acknowledge our Partners who supported the 46th Annual Society Symposium.

1. World Bank
2. PATH
3. Paediatric TB Project Team
4. PHAs
5. NDOH
6. PMGH/NCD Paediatric Organising Teams
7. Dr Andrew Masta
8. Dr Benjamin Yapo

The Society symposium was attended by close to ninety participants over the two-day period; participants ranging from Paediatrician Administrators, Clinical and Academic Paediatricians, Registrars, Child Health Nurses, HEOs and Partners in Child Health. It was a great two days of discussions around Standardization in Child Health. Dr Edith Kariko, Senior Health Specialist with World bank; gave the keynote address on Human Capital Index that looks at Health and Education of a country and its relation to PNG context.

It was a good two days of presentations and discussions. There were excellent presentations from the six post-graduate Masters of Child Health Part 2 and the two Diploma in Child Health Trainees. Special Care Nursery Standards presentation on infrastructure, equipment and service delivery at different levels of health facilities were also discussed. We had the pleasure of Mr Ambrose Kwaramb- Health Facilities Manager present on Nursery Standards. The new Checklist for Level 1-4 Health Facilities and Hospital Checklists presented and discussed, Postgraduate and Nursing training in Child Health were also discussed. This was also the perfect opportunity for the Society members to give their feedback on the review of the Paediatric Standard Treatment for common illnesses of Children in Papua New Guinea the 11th Edition led by Dr Welch, the focal person for the guideline review.

RECOMMENDATIONS from the two Days Symposium:

1. Dr James Amini: The Child & Adolescent Health Policy and Plan 2021-2030: The Society recommends that the Child Health Policy and Plan be followed up with submission to NDOH SEM; for their approval and signed off by the Health Secretary and Health Minister.

Dr Roy Iga: Feasibility of using a Neonatal Early Warning System in Neonates, in Port Moresby General Hospital Special Care Nursery. From this study and presentation sicker neonates at risk of unfavourable outcomes can be identified earlier and earlier interventions

instituted.

The Society recommends that Nursery and Paediatric Wards in PHAs can start using these colour-coded monitoring charts as part of improving quality care for neonates and sicker children with support of their PHAs with the printing and distribution of these charts.

Dr Leilani Suwary: A qualitative study on the need for age-appropriate adolescent health care in Alotau Provincial Hospital: This study highlighted the need for adolescent friendly services at Hospitals and the need for quality care provided to them.

The Society recommends that hospitals in PNG support the care of sick adolescents by introduction of Adolescent Friendly Units in their hospitals.

Dr Venao Seta: What is the incidence rate and common reason of presentation of hospital delivered babies admitted with NNS to the wards in Port Moresby General Hospital? This study looked at the common causes of neonatal admissions discharged from the labour ward. It also showed that only 4% of mothers were advised on KMC.

The Society recommends: that the danger signs in neonates and children be printed at the back of the pink and blue clinic books for children. This will serve as awareness to parents and families, so they know when to bring their sick children in.

2. Dr Villa Watch: Survey of paediatric palliative care at Port Moresby General Hospital. This study identified the characteristics of children admitted to the Paediatric Ward of the Port Moresby General Hospital with palliative care needs and how parents and health care workers viewed the palliative care services provided to these children. Proper palliative care is lacking in hospitals.
The Society recommends: The incorporation of training in palliative care in under-graduate, post-graduate paediatric training, and training for paediatric nurses. The Society supports the development of palliative care protocols.
3. Dr Gordon Pukai: A cohort of children with HIV in Papua New Guinea during an era of anti-retroviral therapy (ART) transition. This study was conducted to observe the difference in the clinical and virological outcomes in the children with the new DTG and Lopinavir-ritonavir (LPVr) ART regimes as compared to their previous NNRTI-based ART regimens at Port Moresby General Hospital. The DTG-based regimen provides much improved reconstitution of immunity, an effective reduction in the viral load and good clinical improvement.
The Society acknowledges this study and encourage that HIV treatment to continue with this new ART regime. The Society also emphasises the need for 6-monthly viral load testing and clinical assessment as a standard of HIV care and recommends the need for ongoing surveillance for ART resistance with the newer regimens. The Society also recommends that there is constant supply of these ART and fluconazole in health facilities.
4. Dr Annette Garae: The outcome of low-birth-weight babies in Vanuatu: The study highlighted the importance of follow up of LBW babies and support to their mothers to achieve better outcomes.
5. Dr Benjamin Daur: Procedural sedation for paediatric CT scans. This study shows that Paediatric clinical staff can provide safe and effective procedural sedation for CT scans for children who require sedation with oral chloral hydrate and intravenous diazepam.
The Society recommends that chloral hydrate be added to the Medical and Dental Catalogue to be used for procedural sedation for procedures like CT scan, echo, ultrasound scans and ECG.
6. Dr Justin Kali: Clinical characteristics and outcomes of children and adolescents admitted with COVID-19 infection at the Port Moresby General Hospital. This study described the clinical characteristics and outcomes of children and adolescents admitted with a positive

COVID-19 test at the Port Moresby General Hospital. The clinical characteristics of children infected with COVID-19 were similar to other studies done in other countries. Most of the cases were mild. Children with comorbidities infected with COVID-19 had the increased risk of mortality.

7. Dr Kilalang: Paediatric Hospital Checklist: Checklist presented to the Society for their awareness and their feedback on the Checklist. It will be further advocated to PHAs through the Regional Advocacy. The Paediatric Checklist will be finalised; and is an important part of Quality Improvement and Standards. Other components include audit, the Paediatric Hospital Reporting program, training materials on Hospital Care for Children and other programs, colour-coded paediatric and neonatal monitoring charts, and continuing medical education.
8. Orientation to Child Health programs:
Paediatric TB – The team advised the Society that for TB preventive therapy; a short three-month course of isoniazid/rifampicin is now used instead of the six months of isoniazid preventive therapy
9. Dr Henry Welch: Review of the Standard Treatment Manual- Society members went through the Standard Treatment Book as a team. Members who still had to submit their reviews were encouraged to send in their reviewed topics after the meeting. The reviewed book will be completed hopefully by the first quarter of 2023. The Society is yet to seek support from partners for printing of the Standard Treatment Guidelines once completed.
10. Mr Ambrose Kwaramb: Standards and Hospital Design for Nursery Units: Mr Kwaramb, who is the Facilities Standards Manager presented the Standards and Design for nursery units in PNG.
The Society recommends that Nursery Units in Provincial Hospitals be build according to standards and to the capacity to serve its population.
11. Dr Roland Barnabas: Minimum standard requirements for the provision of neonatology care in PHAs. Dr Barnabas used the NHSS levels of care to highlight what neonatal care can be provided from Community Level to the Hospital Level. For Paediatric Health care workers in PHAs to understand what neonatal care can be provided at each level, having the appropriate equipment and facility and for referral to higher levels if further care and management is required.
12. Dr Jason Liu: The experience of a neonatologist in PNG.
The Society recommends that the PMGH Special Care Nursery as a Level 6 National and Tertiary Referral Teaching Hospital be set up with equipment, infrastructure and human resources to serve its function.
13. Mr Wilson Karoke: Child Nutrition and Social Protection Project: The Society recommends that there be an improved mechanism for distribution of all the therapeutic feeds, resomal, zinc sulphate and vitamins.
14. Dr F. Pulsan / Sr Nanu: Standards for Child Health Training in PNG. The Society recognises that we need 6 DCH candidates entering the post-graduate program each year, to have at least 4 MMed II graduates at the end of the 5-year training program.
15. Prof J Ferguson / Dr Gabriella Ak: Update on microbiology services; standards for microbiology services in PNG.
The Society Recommends that microbiology services are an important pathology service that PHAs set up in their hospital laboratories.

Thank you,

Dr James Amini
President PNG Paediatric Society.

