

Exploration of the low coverage of received Communicable Disease reports, from Private Practitioners in Private clinics, in Fiji, and their acceptability of the current reporting form and its appropriateness.

ABSTRACT

Private practitioners, like the public medical practitioners, are required under the Public Health Act, to report all communicable diseases including dengue. Currently, the standard report is paper base and in duplicates of three with a copy each going to each level of care. Dengue has been a concern now for many years because of the frequent occurrence of outbreaks. 2014 was the highest so far with more than ten thousands of people affected. However reports were mostly from public medical practitioners and insufficient coordination with the private medical practitioners results in low coverage from them. Good data is needed for planning, management, allocation of resources and forecasting future occurrences and requires data from both sectors private and public medical practitioners.

It was a mixed method study, using step-wedge study design. A qualitative study was done first with all participants where semi unstructured questionnaire was used to find the barriers and motivating factors of reporting, also to know their perception of the current reporting form and its appropriateness. Then private practitioners in clinics with reporting forms available only were involved in the intervention which is a self-monitoring checklist for them to monitor their own selves with their submissions of reports. Reports received were analyzed as the quantitative data.

The study found that 53% of the participants in their individual clinics do not have the reporting form available. In terms of barriers, the most common identified was the lack of resources, not only form but human resources and lack of time. The lack of communication including reminders, monitoring and evaluation and feedbacks. Also noted was the high cost of referrals and confirmatory tests. However, all these barriers when available or done could become motivating factors. Apart from that, most participants felt that being motivated, with the right attitude and positive thinking, is



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Amelia uluivuda Nasetava, Dr.Riris Andono Ahmad, MPH, PhD,

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what they need to do reporting, apart from that, it is the strengthening of the ethical obligation to report, and the increase in cases especially during outbreaks that would also warrant them to report. The study found that the participants accepted the current form in place however 62% felt that it is not the right medium as online is for this age and time, and feedbacks need strengthening.

The forms issuing needs is paramount if reporting is needed, as availability of resources aids in achieving results. The use of self - monitoring checklist plays not much significance in the study however, the study itself has encouraged a few more to report resulting in 3% increase of reporting compared to the same period last year. Feedbacks monitoring and evaluation are needed to support and continuously encourage reporting to be done.

(Keywords: Private General Practitioner, Dengue reporting, Barriers, Motivating Factors, Feedback, and self-monitoring chart, Resources)