

Title

Stocking Patterns, and Pricing of Family Planning Commodities in Patent Medicine Stores and Pharmacies in Six Cities in Nigeria

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Background

In most developing countries, commercial drug shops known as Patent Medicine Stores (PMS) and pharmacies are often the first line of health care. Research from Nigeria confirms that Patent Medicine Vendors (PMVs) play an important role in the delivery of contraceptive services; providing more than 50% of contraceptive users with pills and condoms (NDHS, 2013). Poor availability and cost of commodities are some supply side problems of low contraceptive use. Examining and understanding stocking pattern and pricing of commodities at retail outlets will help program managers ensure increased access to contraceptives for men and women especially in low income settings.

Objectives

This analysis aims to examine the stocking pattern and pricing of family planning commodities in PMS and Pharmacies in six cities in Nigeria.

Methodology

The data from this analysis was from the longitudinal MLE/NURHI 2014 pharmacy and PMS surveys conducted among staff respondents in 433 Pharmacies and 540 PMS across the six cities of Abuja, Ibadan, Ilorin, Benin, Kaduna and Zaria. Descriptive statistics was used to assess and understand the pricing and stock-pattern of contraceptive commodity in PMS and Pharmacies in these six cities.

Results

Across all six cities, at least sixty percent of pharmacy shops stock minimum of four contraceptive methods, except for pharmacies in Benin. More than half of all pharmacies in the six cities stock Emergency Contraceptive (EC). Sales velocity of contraceptives among pharmacy shops varies across method, for POCs, sales data showed that about one-fifth sells about 30-50 packs in month while close to one-third of CPs sells between 15-20 pieces of POC in a month.

At least ninety percent of all PMS surveyed across the cities said they stock contraceptive methods. About two-thirds of pharmacies in Zaria (62.7%) and Kaduna (65.9%) stock injectables while about one – quarter, 25.3% in Benin and 25.9% in Ibadan stock injectable. The cost of methods varies widely across cities and across methods. For example, 55.9% sell a unit of COP at 50 Naira in Abuja while in Benin, 40% sell 50 Naira per unit.

Conclusion

Patent Medicine Stores a minimum of four family planning methods including methods such as injectables which they are not licensed to stock. While they remain the primary point of call for most intending users of contraceptives, family planning managers need to engage with them in order to

provide them the needed capacity to offer accurate information about family planning and refer clients as appropriate.

Family planning program managers need to explore policy reviews that can engage PMS and pharmacy shops differently in order to take advantage of a new pool of health cadres that are venturing into operating PMS.

This will ensure and facilitate improved access of women and men to family planning services.

Preferred Presentation Mode

Oral