



ICEHA

The global leader in clinical skills rapid transfer to emerging nations

Unite For Sight's Fifth Annual International Health Conference

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Title: Clinical Mentoring Rapidly Improves Clinic Management Systems for HIV Care in Resource-Limited Settings

Text:

Although antiretroviral therapy (ART) is becoming more widely available in the developing world, the implementation of successful treatment and prevention programs has been severely hampered by the lack of operational systems required for HIV delivery. In order to start and sustain the growing numbers of HIV patients receiving care, local health workers need to know how to develop and maintain appropriate clinic management systems. Western nurses providing hands-on HIV mentoring to local nurses are an invaluable resource in helping create operational systems for sustainable HIV practice.

The International Center for Equal Healthcare Access (ICEHA) recruits, prepares, and manages volunteer medical professionals for clinical mentoring assignments in resource-poor countries. Clinical mentors provide hands-on, practical coaching to local colleagues on optimal HIV care delivery within the resources available and according to local guidelines.

ICEHA analyzed the impact of clinical mentoring on operational systems by reviewing assessments of local providers' skills that are conducted at the beginning and end of mentor assignments. Nurse clinical mentors dramatically improved access to and quality of HIV care in clinics in resource-poor countries with a particularly strong emphasis on improving clinic management systems.

Improvement was seen in the ability of local providers to perform effective patient intake, coordinate optimal clinic flow, develop and manage patient tracking systems, and manage stock of medications and supplies. ICEHA's public health approach to scaling up HIV care has had a dramatic impact on patient care and has enabled clinics to manage increasing numbers of patients on treatment with existing healthcare staff.

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