



International Center *for* Equal Healthcare Access
The global leader in clinical skills rapid transfer to emerging nations

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Oral presentation

Rapid skill transfer through clinical mentoring: A universal, fast approach to scaling up HIV practical expertise in developing countries, effective and easily replicated across countries and continents

Issues:

The lack of HIV/AIDS practical expertise amongst local healthcare workers prevents developing countries from expanding HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs. Clinical mentoring creates practical clinical expertise and strengthens operational systems necessary for HIV care and is effective across countries and continents.

Description:

The International Center for Equal Healthcare Access (ICEHA) has implemented clinical mentoring programs worldwide. The model piloted in Cambodia then replicated in Vietnam, Lesotho, and Ethiopia. ICEHA (www.iceha.org) sends volunteer teams of western educated medical and non-medical professionals to developing countries. They transfer their practical HIV expertise directly onto local colleagues.

ICEHA programs combine a highly structured operational model with a component of adaptability that ensures mentoring is delivered within the resources of each country and clinic setting, and within the respective national HIV treatment guidelines. Such flexibility allows the model to be consistently replicated to deliver high impact in each setting.

Lessons/Recommendations:

ICEHA replicated clinical mentoring in four countries. Preliminary results of program evaluation data from each setting show that after a single team of clinical mentors the number of HIV patients with access to HIV care dramatically increased. Local health care professionals' knowledge of HIV/AIDS, skill base for caring for HIV positive patients and command of optimal use of anti-AIDS medication increased measurably.

ICEHA clinical mentoring is a program model has been replicated in countries across continents. Developing countries should consider including clinical mentoring in their national HIV/AIDS strategies to address the urgent need to create HIV treatment expertise among the local healthcare workforce.

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