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Role of Pharma groups in improving management of adverse effects of TB/MDR-TB drugs

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Africa remains the region with the highest burden of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. (TB). However, now with increased access to medicines to combat these diseases, counterfeit medicines and poor-quality medicines are increasingly circulating in the region. only 20 percent of countries are testing samples for post-marketing surveillance. The burden of adverse events from poor product quality, adverse drug reactions (ADRs), and medication errors may affect achieving the full benefits of these new medicines and pose great challenges to health care systems. Besides the impact of adverse drug events (ADEs) on morbidity and mortality and the direct cost of managing the events, ADEs also have other associated costs in terms of the loss of confidence in the health system, economic loss to the pharmaceutical industry, non-adherence to treatment, and development of drug resistance. South Africa has the strongest pharmaceutical industry among sub Saharan African countries, accounting for almost 70 percent of the total SSA's pharmaceutical market. There are over 100 pharmaceutical companies in South Africa. A vast majority of TB patients experience adverse drug reactions which are often severe and in some cases even life threatening. These unwanted effects influence patient adherence to TB treatment. Therefore, timely recognition and adequate management of adverse events are very important for achieving good TB treatment outcomes. This presentation will address key challenges related to adverse effects of TB MDR-TB drugs and highlight the role Pharma groups could play role in promoting effective management of adverse effects result from TB, MDR-TB drugs.

Biography

Dr. Refiloe Matji is a recognized authority on TB and has an international leader in implementing TB projects globally as well as designing and implementing programs for TB/HIV co-infection. She is an international public health professional, bringing thirteen years of experience in TB and HIV/AIDS program management. She has served as an organizer and made key presentations on the topic of TB/HIV control and care at international conferences. She serves on several international working groups, including the WHO TB Advisory Committee.

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