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## Olubunmi Ogbodu

University of Venda, South Africa

### Predictors of generic medicines availability at lower level health facilities in Limpopo Province, South Africa

**Background:** Lower level health facilities, including clinics and health centers are the first level of contact for individuals, in a community, bringing health care as close as possible to where people live and work. Consistent availability of medicines is one of the goals of primary health care hence the development of generic medicines that are cost-effective and affordable, to meet the health care needs of the majority of the population. However, these generic essential medicines are not always available at some of the primary health facilities.

**Objective:** This study explored the predictors of generic medicines availability at the lower level health facilities in Vhembe District, Limpopo Province of South Africa.

**Methods:** A qualitative, exploratory research design was used. Thirteen (13) professional nurses from 3 clinics and 2 health centers in Thulamela B municipality were purposively selected to participate in an in-depth interview. Data were analyzed using the Tesch's Open Coding Method.

**Results:** Key predictors found were inappropriate selection of generic medicines, insufficient budget for procurement and local manufacture investment. Inadequate transport systems and poor distribution logistics were also identified.

**Conclusion & Recommendation:** The study revealed that generic medicines are not always available at the primary health facilities. Increased investment in local manufacture of generic medicines and strengthening of the pharmaceutical distribution logistics and supply chain are recommended.

[bunmi\\_ogbodu2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bunmi_ogbodu2003@yahoo.co.uk)