Cascade Training for Pharmacovigilance Focal Points in Ghana

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Agenda

• Background
  - The Pharmacovigilance (PV) System in Ghana
  - Why the cascaded training
  - Objective and Expected Outcomes

• What did we do?
• What did we achieve?
• What next?
The PV System in Ghana

• Ghana joined the WHO Programme for International Drug Monitoring in November 2001
  ○ 65th member of the programme and the first country in West Africa

• The FDA serves as the National Centre for Pharmacovigilance and has the mandate to monitor the safety of health products

• Safety monitoring is done in collaboration with designated healthcare workers in facilities; Institutional Contact Persons (ICPs)

• Adverse reaction reports received by the National Centre are mainly through the ICPs
Background 2/3

Why the Cascaded Training

• Review of National Supply Chain and Pharmacovigilance capabilities of the health system in 2019
  o Pharmacovigilance require strengthening at the lower levels
  o Standard Operating Procedures and reporting forms for adverse reactions were not available at last-mile facilities, namely, Community-Based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) zones, Health Centres and Clinics.
    o CHPS zones allows geographical access to healthcare delivery for persons living in deprived communities

• The training was conducted to ensure safety monitoring of medicines and vaccines within the supply chain at all levels
  o Decentralize pharmacovigilance to the lower levels of the healthcare delivery system in Ghana
  o Enhance safety mentoring of COVID-19 vaccines
Objective and expected Outcomes

• Train ICPs from lower level healthcare delivery facilities on pharmacovigilance

• It is expected that at the end of the training programme:
  o Improved knowledge on pharmacovigilance [i.e. adverse event following immunization (AEFI) adverse drug reaction (ADR)]
  o Designate ICPs for facilities that participated in the training.
  o Downloaded and know how to use the Med Safety App to report ADRs and AEFIs.
  o Improved AEFI and ADR reporting from the spontaneous reporting system.
What did we do? 1/3

1. Collaboration with the Ghana Health Service

2. Two-day training workshop held in six out of the 16 administrative regions

3. Interactive PowerPoint presentations and hands-on exercises. Use of the reporting tools. Pre- and post-training tests

Food and Drugs Authority
What did we do? 2/3

- Total of 182 healthcare professionals from lower-level healthcare facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>No. Trained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>6(^{th}) - 7(^{th}) April 2021</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashanti</td>
<td>7(^{th}) - 8(^{th}) April 2021</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bono East</td>
<td>8(^{th}) - 9(^{th}) April 2021</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>Ahafo</td>
<td>8(^{th}) - 9(^{th}) April 2021</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bono</td>
<td>13(^{th}) - 14(^{th}) April 2021</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Accra</td>
<td>13(^{th}) - 14(^{th}) April 2021</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>182</strong></td>
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</table>
What did we do?
What did we achieve? 1/5

Improved knowledge on pharmacovigilance

![Graph showing improvement in knowledge across different regions.]
What did we achieve? 2/5

Increased Med Safety App Downloads (Jan 2021-Apr. 2022)

Food and Drugs Authority
What did we achieve? 3/5

Increased reporting rate of safety issues of drugs and vaccines

Food and Drugs Authority
What did we achieve? 4/5

Improved safety monitoring during the deployment of COVID-19 vaccines

• Ghana deployed 14,944,182 doses of five different COVID-19 vaccines between 1\textsuperscript{st} March 2021 to 25\textsuperscript{th} May 2022
  ○ AstraZeneca (Covishield & Vaxzevria) [62.3 %], Pfizer-BioNTech [19.4%], COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen [11.0 %], Moderna [7.1%] and Sputnik V [0.1 %]

• AEFI reports received- 9,173; 1 AEFI Per 1,000 doses administered
  
  \begin{itemize}
  \item Non-serious (9,117;99.4%)
  \item Serious (56;0.6%)
  \end{itemize}
  
  [40-AstraZeneca, 8-Pfizer, 3-Moderna, 5-Janssen]
What did we achieve? 5/5

Causality assessment of serious AEFI reports

• 15 Meetings of the Joint COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Review Committee (JCVSRC)

• Causality assessment for 44 (78.6%) serious AEFI reports with 12 (21.4%) pending
  - No direct relationship between the AEFIs and the vaccines except those listed in the Summary of the Product Characteristics

• Fourteen recommendations from the Committee published
So, What’s next?

• Expand the decentralization of pharmacovigilance to the at last-mile facilities

• Collaborate with stakeholders to promote electronic reporting
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