Assessing the use of Economic Evidence in the Development of Clinical Practice Guidelines on Child Health in Nigeria

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This project is part of the EDCTP2 programme supported by the European Union

BACKGROUND

- Provision of quality healthcare for Nigeria's children is challenged by high rates of under-five morbidity, mortality and economic waste.
- Achieving UHC under the SDGs requires balancing healthcare quality and optimizing cost.
- Incorporating Economic Evidence (EE) in developing Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) recommendations may be useful,
- It is unclear if CPGs on child health in Nigeria consider economic costs.

Aim: To assess the use of economic evidence in developing recommendations of CPGs on child health in Nigeria.

Scope: National and subnational CPGs on newborn, child health, and leading infectious causes of under-five mortality in Nigeria were searched in June 2024.

METHODS

- Two reviewers independently extracted data from eligible guidelines, including the scope, guideline development process, and use of EE.
- Descriptive analysis of the data and a desk review of the context in which EE was used in relevant guidelines.

Electronic database & Website search

Eligibility screening

Desk review

Descriptive analysis

KEY RESULTS

13 eligible

adapted.

8 guidelines

De Novo

4 guidelines

Cost consideration: 3 of 13 guidelines

- Guidelines were on communicable diseases (n=7) &11 intended for use at all levels of care.
- Despite the existence of tools like the Evidence-to-Decision framework to aid the guideline development process, economic evidence was explicitly considered in only three CPGs.
- Cost was often mentioned as a plausible barrier to adherence but not in the context of exploring cost-effective alternatives.
- Socio-economic factors were causally linked to the disease conditions.
- The guideline development process was not described in one guideline

CONCLUSION

- Incorporating economic evidence in developing CPGs on child health while lacking, may optimize quality healthcare delivery and child health outcomes especially in resource-constrained settings like Nigeria.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This poster was produced by the GELA project which is part of the EDCTP2 programme (grant number RIA2020S-3303-GELA) supported by the European Union. The views and opinions of the authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of EDCTP.

The GELA project is a partnership coordinated by the South African Medical Research Council, including the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Stellenbosch University, Cochrane Nigeria at the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, Nigeria, Kamuzu University of Health Sciences, Malawi, Cochrane and Stiftelsen MAGIC Evidence Ecosystem, Norway.

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