

APPENDIX II: STATEMENT OF INFORMED CONSENT

Statement of informed consent for study on tuberculosis surveillance system evaluation in Ghana: contribution of pharmacies and over-the-counter medicine shops to TB detection

I am Mavis Pearl Kwabla, an Assistant Lecturer of the School of Public Health, University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho and currently a PhD student at Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research and Hannover Medical School in Germany. This study is an aspect of a project for the award of PhD degree in Epidemiology at the above-mentioned institution. The purpose of this study is to investigate the determinants of pharmacists' and over-the-counter medicine sellers' referral of suspected TB cases for laboratory diagnosis and to assess the kind of barriers that prevent them from reporting. The study will provide high quality data to the National TB Control Programme about the contribution of private pharmacies and over-the-counter medicine shops to TB case detection in Ghana for further optimization of their work.

Procedure

The whole procedure will be explained on information sheet to be distributed to potential study participants during professional meetings before the interview. In addition, this information will be put on the project web page: <https://www.helmholtz-hzi.de/TB-Ghana>.

Before the start of the interview a summary will be read to potential participants.

"We will ask you about influencing factors and/or barriers associated with referral of people with TB-like symptoms for laboratory diagnosis. You are selected to participate in this study because of your ownership of or work in private pharmacy or over-the-counter medicine shop. There will be no financial compensation for your participation. The study is financed by the HZI and the Ghanaian-German Postgraduate Training Programme (DAAD).

Privacy, anonymity and confidentiality

"I assure you that all your responses to the questions you will be asked will be kept confidential. Any information you provide will be stored in password protected truecrypt containers on computers not used privately and access is be limited to staff working on the project. The results will be published in an aggregated fashion. You do not need to provide information that identifies you personally. The data will be stored anonymously without your name and phone number.

I would like to assure you that this study has obtained an ethical clearance (legal permission) from the Ghana Health Service Ethics Review Committee in Ghana and has been assessed by the Institutional Ethics Committee of Hannover Medical School in Germany. The investigators have no conflict of interest in this study.

Freedom to participate

You have the right to withdraw at any point in time from the study. But I would like to encourage you to participate fully in the study since the information you will provide will help in adapting strategies that will lead to increase TB detection in Ghana.

Whom to contact

In case you have any question regarding the research, you can contact the following persons:

The Administrator of the Ghana Health Service Ethics Review Committee:

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If there is anything you want clarified, you can ask so we can provide you with answers. I would like to proceed to ask you some questions regarding the issues described so far above.

Thank you.