



Disperse. A National Medical Stores worker distributes drugs to different hospitals last year. FILE PHOTO

Kamuli hospital runs out of drugs, gloves

Risky. The stock-out of drugs and other necessities has sent patients into panic as many cannot afford to buy them in private pharmacies.

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KAMULI. Kamuli Hospital has run out of an assortment of drugs, putting patients' lives at risk. The hospital has reportedly run out of Panadol, Amoxil, Septrin, Erythromycin, Intravenous Ampicillin and babies' drugs such as Nevirapine syrup, junior septrine, Nifedipine and Methyl-dopa.

Also reportedly missing from the hospital's inventory are medical supplies such as surgical gloves, detergent and Mama' Kits which have forced medical workers to either refer patients to other hospitals or ask them to buy from private pharmacies.

Notice

A May 14 notice titled: 'Examination gloves stock-out' signed by Mr Mathias Muganza, the medical labo-

ratory technologist, has been pinned on the hospital notice board.

"This is to inform you that the examination gloves (personal protective equipment) required for bio-safety of the medical personnel and patients have run out of stock in the hospital store and the laboratory. We therefore request you to source them from elsewhere before you can be worked on by our staff," the notice reads in part.

Ms Lillian Nabalyango, a midwife at Kamuli General Hospital, attributes the stock-out of examination gloves and some drugs to the over-

whelming number of patients at the facility.

She says: "Patients are many yet we receive few gloves and within a period of one and a half months, they are over. So, we have to wait until the next delivery which is quarterly. We deliver more than 300 mothers within a month."

Ms Nabalyango adds that they have urged mothers to buy whatever is lacking from pharmacies yet they are expensive for some mothers who are financially incapacitated.

Ms Susan Namukose, an expectant mother and resident of Namisambya Village in Kitayunjwa Sub-county, says she was told to buy 10 pairs of gloves before they could operate on her yet she had not budgeted for that in her expenses, as she left her home.

At Nankandulo Health Centre IV, which lacks most of the essential drugs and supplies, one of the midwives, Ms Flavia Nambi, says the drug stock-out has hit the hospital for the past two weeks and nothing has been done so far.

NMS RESPONDS

When contacted yesterday, the National Medical Stores spokesperson, Mr Dan Kimosho, said drugs are available but they are released upon request.

"Have they requested? If they don't order, we don't supply. Kindly ask them to furnish us with their order. We have all (drugs) apart from Septrin which go with ARVs. The Septrin that goes with ARVs is donated by Global Fund and they haven't supplied it now," he said.