

Implant kits added to medical supplies list

By Betty Amamukirori and Lisa Nsaba

The Government has added the procurement of up-to-date implant insertion and removal equipment and the intrauterine device (IUD) on its essential drugs and medical supplies list.

Speaking at a family planning workshop yesterday, Dr Charles Olaro, the director of clinical health at the health ministry, said the move was informed by the upsurge in the demand for implants.

"This should be part of the comprehensive package the ministry provides. Through the National Medical Stores (NMS) we shall avail the implants, which will be distributed based on requisition," he said.

Olaro said the implants were not sometimes available at government health facilities because orders were not made in time.

He was speaking at a workshop in Kampala on expanding family planning services organised by JPHIEGO, an international non-profit health organisation dedicated to improving the health of women and families.



Dr Charles Olaro

For the past two years, JHPIEGO, in partnership with Marie Stopes Uganda, has been training nurses and midwives in how to insert and remove implants as well as how to provide quality implant services to Ugandan women.

Implants and IUDs are contraceptive devices implanted into a woman's arm and uterus respectively, to prevent unwanted pregnancies and help with child spacing. The devices are removed when one wishes to get pregnant, change family planning method or when they (devices) expires.

Emily Katarikawe, the country director of Jhpiego, said they


came up with the training project after realising that there was an upsurge in the demand for implants yet the nurses and midwives were not equipped with the skills to remove them when there was need.

She said the medical facilities did not have equipment to offer quality implant services or sometimes would keep the equipment together without first sterilising them.

Currently, implants are the second-most sought after family planning method in Uganda, after the injections (Injectaplan) by women.

Dr Josephine Nabukeera, the project director JHPIEGO Uganda, said on top of the training, they have equipped the beneficiary district health facilities with 73 standard removal sets, 33 difficult removal sets and prepared 17 referral hospitals for removal of implants that are inserted deep into the skin.

Dr Placid Mihayo, the commissioner reproductive health at the ministry, said there was a case of a woman who failed to get someone to remove the implant until she got a medical officer to do so for sh700,000.



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