



DEADLY

Death trap

Residents of Isingiro District look at what remains of Kishuro Bridge that links the sub-counties of Isingiro South and Isingiro North after a section of it was washed away by running water following a downpour on Sunday. The bridge was constructed in 2003. It has been helping residents, especially farmers, to transport their produce to the market. PHOTO BY FELIX AINEBYOONA

Kisiizi Hospital using technology to improve service delivery

High-tech. The hospital has developed a computer software that enables clinicians to deliver health care efficiently by providing key safety prompts across the entire patient journey.

BY PEREZ RMANZI
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

RUKUNGIRI. Medical workers at Kisiizi Hospital are doing away with the traditional method of using stationery in keeping patients' diagnosis and treatment, as well as payment records.

The practice is being phased out following the designing and use of 'Stre@mline' software that keeps alphanumeric and image data.

Kisiizi hospital is located in Nyarushanje Sub-county, Rukungiri District. It is an Anglican missionary private not-for-profit hospital established in 1958.

The hospital's general clinic received 55,041 patients last year. The antenatal clinic received 2,262 mothers and there were 9,102 admissions.

The hospital medical superintendent, Dr Ian Spillman and Mr Samuel Mugisha, a software engineer with Innovation Streams Limited, started developing Stre@mline in 2013.

How it works

Stre@mline is an e-health platform that enables clinicians to deliver health care efficiently by providing key patient safety prompts across the entire patient journey.

It runs on a Local Area Network, making it usable even in areas where there is no internet coverage.

The system captures and stores patients' information, which is retrieved every time they make another visit.

The software is handy in the running of the hospital's health insurance scheme, which has an enrolment

Voice

"When we were using the hard record based data, we would spend a lot of time on a patient at every stage. But now, you look at the system and you know how many patients need your attention from the entries at OPD. By the time a patient reaches your clinic, you will have known how to deal with him or her,"

AMOS MUHUMUZA,
A PEDIATRICIAN AT
KISIIZI HOSPITAL

of about 40,000 people, and guards against any illegal internal financial dealings by tracking how payments are made.

Mr Mugisha says the use of Stre@mline helps both patients and health workers in case management, as well as records keeping.

Every patient who goes to the hospital for treatment must be entered into the Stre@mline system at the Out Patient Department (OPD), the first point of interface with medical workers, before anything is done on him or her.

After a patient's entry has been made, they are taken through a thorough triage, which tests for sugars, blood pressure, allergies and other opportunistic observations.

Triage helps to identify very sick patients and prioritise them to receive care immediately. Stre@mline

briefly**Taxi drivers protest fees**

HOIMA: Taxi drivers in Hoima Municipality have protested payment of loading fees to tenderers who have been contracted by the urban authority to collect the money from them. The drivers allege that the contract of Hoima Taxi/Bus Owners and Drivers Cooperative Society to manage the park, expired last month but the municipality secretly extended the contract without consulting or notifying the drivers, who say they are core stakeholders in the park management. [Francis Mugerwa]

Civil servants warned

NTUNGAMO: Ntungamo municipality Town Clerk Christopher Ahimbisibwe has decried the habit of absenteeism and late coming by civil servants, which he says has led to poor service delivery in various departments. Speaking to journalists at his office on Monday, Mr Ahimbisibwe said he has sent a notice to all staff urging them to be serious with their work and those who will not comply will have their salaries cut. He added that the Ministry of Public Service standing orders stipulates that any civil servant must report at work at 8 am and leave at 5pm from Monday to Friday. [Ely Katabinga]

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embeds the Emergency Triage Assessment and Treatment (ETAT), a World Health Organisation tool to help identify very sick babies and avoid deterioration.

A patient is then sent to a physician for consultation. No patient is allowed to proceed to see a consultant before a triage is done. The doctor then makes an order, like sending the patient to the laboratory for specific test or the pharmacy, through Stre@ndline.

At the laboratory or pharmacy, the patient doesn't need to explain anything. The patient is readily attended to on arrival at each stage.

"Information is entered at OPD and communicated to all clinics using Stre@ndline. It becomes easy for the patient that where he or she is referred finds the health worker ready. The doctor, technician or pharmacist is already in the know of who is coming," Mr Mugisha says.

According to Mr Mugisha, the system also monitors how much time a patient spends with a given medic.

Dr Amos Muhumuza, a paediatrician at the hospital, says the system helps the medical workers to communicate and plan in the process of handling patients, easing work and saving time.

"When we were using the hard record based data, we would spend a lot of time on a patient at every stage. It was also hard for one to know the workload before you. It's now easy," says Dr Muhumuza.

Mr Robert Bagaga, a senior nursing officer in the psychiatry ward, says Stre@ndline has helped much in detailing patients' information.

Developing the software is, however, expensive. Training medical workers and other staff to manage and use it and procurement of equipment is a big challenge.

The hospital had to buy new computers for all the sections, including clinics, accounts, records, pharmacy, and wards. They had to install a server, all costing at least \$10,000 (about Shs36m).

There is also a challenge of lack of ICT skills among medical workers. Mr Mugisha, however, says they computer literacy training before implementing the software.

HISTORY

The idea The software development began in 2012, with a small group of doctors from Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital but it came to life after partnership with Kisizi hospital in 2013.

According to Dr Ian Spillman, the Kisizi hospital medical superintendent, the innovation was inspired by an earlier project at a hospital in Macclesfield in the United Kingdom where he previously worked as a consultant paediatrician.

After the first phase of development, Stre@ndline was tried at Kisizi hospital in 2014. It is now being used by almost all sections of the hospital, with 62,000 patients already captured in the system. The system is also being used at Rugarama hospital in Kabale.

briefly

Businessman shot dead

MBARARA: Police in Mbarara are investigating circumstances under which a 36-year-old businessman was shot dead in Katooma village, Ngaga parish in Kagame Sub-county.

District petitions

KYEGERWA: Kyegerwa has petitioned the Office of the District Commissioner.