

THE MEDICAL CAMP IS SLATED FOR SEPTEMBER 28 TO 29 AT RAILWAY GROUNDS ON JINJA ROAD IN KAMPALA

By Martin Kitubi

Vision Group has partnered with 14 medical institutions to provide free services to over 5,000 patients at the second mega health camp.

The camp is slated for September 28 to 29 at Railway Grounds on Jinja Road in Kampala.

Services will include voluntary HIV testing and counselling, free male circumcision, cancer screening, especially for breast and cervical cancer, nutrition assessment, eye care check-ups and orthopedics.

Orthopedics involves the correction or prevention of deformities, disorders or injuries of the skeleton and associated structures (such as tendons and ligaments).

Other medical services include family planning, dental care, hepatitis B testing and treatment at a reduced fee, sexual reproductive health, diabetes testing, body mass index testing, and malaria testing. There will also be blood donation.

This was revealed yesterday during a joint press conference by Vision Group and the partners at the former's headquarters in Kampala.

Last year's health camp was held at Centenary Park in Kampala and it attracted about 3,000 patients.

Joseph Banyu, the Vision Group corporate social

Vision Group health camp targets 5,000



The medical camp partners after the launch at the New Vision offices yesterday. Photo by Juliet Kasirye

responsibility (CSR) co-ordinator, said the move is aimed at bringing services closer to the people as part of Vision Group's CSR.

"The society in which we live is our market for the different products and through activities like this, Vision Group gives back to this market. We call

upon all Ugandans within the Kampala metropolitan area to come for the free medical services," he said.

"Some of these services, including medical consultation from doctors at hospitals in the country, are quite expensive and this is why we have partnered with

medical institutions to bring such services closer."

Banyu requested the partners to offer Tuberculosis testing and free hepatitis B vaccination adding: "The vaccine is expensive at several hospitals and many people cannot afford it."

In his response, Peter Mulindwa, the client management co-ordinator at International Hospital Kampala (IHK), promised to offer hepatitis B vaccine at a reduced fee.

"The hepatitis B vaccine goes for about sh50,000 but we hope to give it at about sh25,000. We are also committed to improving people's health in the country," Mulindwa said.

Those who test negative for hepatitis B are required to receive three hepatitis B vaccines over a period of six months to achieve immunity of the virus and those who test positive are required to take suppression drugs for life.

Acute hepatitis B virus

infection is a short-term illness that occurs within the first six months after someone is exposed to the hepatitis B virus, whereas chronic is long-term and it remains in the person for life.

Hepatitis B is spread when blood, semen, or other body fluid infected with the hepatitis B virus enters the body of a person who is not infected. People can become infected with the virus during activities such as birth (spread from an infected mother to her baby during birth) or sex with an infected partner.

What partners say

David Naggi, the chief executive officer at CORSU, said: "Doctors and orthopedics experts will be available targeting mainly children with bone and muscle problems and those with deformities."

He also said adults with bone and muscle problems will be counselled and offered recommendation on how best they can be treated.

Priscilla Nabatanzi from Reproductive Health Uganda said: "We will offer treatment for sexually transmitted infections such as candida and syphilis targeting both men and women."

Dr Esther Lukwago, a dental surgeon and director of Kay's Dental Clinic, said: "We will offer a range of services on how to remove dirt from the teeth and stopping gum bleeding."

THE PARTNERS

This year's partners are: CORSU Rehabilitation Hospital, Uganda Blood Transfusion Services, UMC Victoria Hospital, Uganda Cares, International Medical Group, Talmex Nutrition Centre, Kays Dental Clinic, Aga Khan and Ian Hutcheon Clinic for Children, Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital, Reproductive Health Uganda, Uganda Cancer Institute and Uganda Women's Cancer Support Organisation.