Prioritizing PLWNCDs During COVID and The Way Forward

Keddy MOISE, MD
FHADIMAC
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Overview of challenges

- Weak health system prior to COVID-19
  - Low health literacy in the general population
  - Fragmentation of care
  - High proportion of undiagnosed and underserved PLWNCDs
  - Unfamiliarity with emergency preparedness

- Disruption of clinical care during COVID-19
  - Low clinic attendance / Missed follow-up visits and screenings
  - Fear and misinformation among PLWNCDs
  - Shortage of essential medications
Success stories

- Information campaign about epidemic preparedness
- Risk reduction protocols inside clinics
- Position statement about diabetes management during COVID-19
- Local networking with centers focused on PLWNCDs
- Online scientific sessions
- Community approach to maintain essential supply chains
Information campaign

- Key messages transmitted via radio stations
  - Essentials of basic hygiene
  - Sick days rules for PLWNCDs
  - Essential medications and tools lists
  - Signs of disease complications
  - What to do in case of emergency?
  - Contact points
Risk reduction protocols

• Key measures include:
  – Questionnaire and temperature check
  – Hand washing points
  – Hand sanitizers available inside clinics
  – Mandatory face-mask for everyone
  – Social distancing rule (1.5 m)
  – PPE for every health worker
Position statement

• Need to respond to the fear of HCWs and patients about NCDs management during COVID-19

• Key points
  – Mild cases can be managed at home
  – Moderate to severe cases need medical supervision
  – Current medication may be discontinued

• Communication through the medical community
  – Meeting with association of private hospitals
  – Meeting with College of Internal Medicine
Community project

• Community project designed to maintain insulin supply chain
  – Youth leadership
  – Training on community approach with senior social worker
  – Glycemic and mental health surveillance
  – Maintenance of supply chains
    • Insulin
    • Glucose testing strips
    • Glucometer
  – Bridge between patients and providers during COVID-19
Health system strengthening

• Training in disaster/emergency preparedness
• Central role of primary care and prevention
• Reduction of fragmentation of care
• Reduction of direct cost to patients
• Collaboration with regional partners
• Central role of the patient’s experience
• Result oriented strategy
The Way Forward

Key actions for government:
- Revalorization of Primary Care
- Action plan for disaster preparedness
- Universal Health Coverage
- Resilient supply chain of essential medications
- Strengthening collaboration with regional leaders
- People centered care / People centered system
- Teleconsultation
Thank you