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Drug and Therapeutics Committee

Overview

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Objectives

- Understand the role and benefits of the Drug and Therapeutics Committee (DTC)
- Understand the DTC functions, including:
 - Advisory responsibilities
 - Policies and procedures
 - Formulary management
 - Pharmaceutical management issues
 - Promotion of strategies to improve medicine use and medicine safety
- Discuss the importance of the DTC in promoting rational use of medicines.



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DTC: Role and Benefits

Medicines can save lives and improve quality of life but are expensive and widely misused.

The DTC is designated to ensure the safe and effective use of medicines in the hospital facility

- Develops/Implement **policies** for managing medicine use (STG)
- **Evaluates** the clinical use of medicines (Drug Use Evaluation)
- Administers and manages the **formulary** system

Important benefits include:

- Improved quality of patient care and health outcomes
- Increased staff and patient knowledge
- Management of ADRs and medication errors
- Improved medicine procurement and inventory management
- Management of pharmaceutical expenditure



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DTC Functions:

1. **Advise** medical, administrative and pharmacy departments
2. **Develop policies** on:
 - Selection, procurement and distribution of medicines
 - Implementation of Standard Treatment Guidelines (STG)
 - Pharmaceutical management issues in the hospital
 - Pharmaceutical promotion
3. **Evaluate** Medicine Use:
 - Aggregate and analyse consumption data
 - Identifying general trends in prescribing
 - Monitoring adherence to Standard Treatment Guidelines
4. **Promote** Rational Drug Use:
 - Educational programs
 - Managerial programs



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DTC Structure and Organization

- Membership from medical, pharmacy, administration, nursing and patients
- Regular meetings and regular attendance with minutes
- Documented goals, terms of reference, policies, decisions
- It is the responsibility of each member to engage the division/stakeholders they represent in DTC decisions.
- The Chair and the Vice Chair will serve as a formal link between the DTC and the Hospital Director (or the Hospital Board once established).

DTC Quorum/Deputies

- The quorum for DTC operations should be 5 members, of whom at least 2 should be Clinicians, 1 Nurse, 1 Pharmacist and one of either the Chair or Vice Chair. If members cannot attend, a deputy will be acceptable.



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DTC Guiding Principles

In order for a DTC to function effectively, it should have:

- ✓ A multidisciplinary, **transparent** approach:
development and enforcement of a strict ethics policy for all activities of the DTC;
- ✓ **Unbiased** decision making:
absence of COI, especially in the pharmaceutical industry;
- ✓ **Technical competence**; and
- ✓ An official **mandate**.

In particular, any decision should be based on the following:

- **Explicit** criteria and process;
- **Objectivity**: evidence-based and documented approach;
- **Consistency**: uniformity between formulary and STG.



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Monitoring DTC Performance

Impact and Outcome Indicators:

Medicine selection

- Number of medicines in the hospital formulary
- % prescribed drugs belonging to the hospital formulary
- Number of antimicrobials in the formulary

Prescribing quality

- % of patients treated in accordance with STGs

Drug safety

- Mortality and morbidity rates per annum due to adverse consequences of medicine use (ADRs and medication errors)

Financial sustainability

- Cost of DTC activities versus the money saved through improving drug use and decreasing wastage



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Summary

The DTC **evaluates** the clinical use of medicines, **develops** the policies for managing medicine use in line with adopted STG and **manages** the formulary system.

These actions will result in:

- ✓ Improved patient care;
- ✓ Better planning of pharmaceutical need;
- ✓ Improved medicine procurement and inventory management;
- ✓ Improved management of pharmaceutical expenditure.