



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



MINISTRIA E SHENDETESISE

Implementing Standard Treatment Guidelines (STG)

Dr. Luca Li Bassi, MD, Dip Mgt, DPH
Pharmaceutical Management
Advisory Services

February 2014

This presentation is based on the Training Course developed by MSH (RPM Plus) in collaboration with WHO in 2001 and revised in 2007.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



MINISTRIA E SHENDETESIS

Session Objectives:

- Understand the importance of an STG in promoting the rational use of medicines.
- Understand the advantages and disadvantages of implementing an STG.
- Describe the implementation of a treatment guideline in a hospital or clinic.

Key Definition: Standard Treatment Guideline

A systematically developed statement designed to assist practitioners and patients in making decisions about appropriate health care for specific clinical circumstances.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



MINISTRIA E SHENDETESISE

Why STG?

- Treatment of diseases may have many different approaches.
- Uniformity of treatment for the same disease across different practitioners and different hospitals is an important element of **equity**.
- Applying the most (cost) effective treatment benefits both the patient and the health care system.
- Managing **procurement, inventory** and medicine **budgets** becomes more reliable, predictable and controllable if medicines are used according to established STG.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



MINISTRIA E SHENDETESISE

Advantages

Health Care Providers:

- Provides standardized guidance to practitioners (including junior health professionals)
- Improves consistency, quality and equity of care
- Enables providers to concentrate on making the correct diagnosis

Health Care Officials:

- Provides to patients the most appropriate medicines for specific conditions
- Provides a basis for evaluating quality of care

Supply Management:

- Utilizes only formulary medicines, so the health care system needs to provide only the medicines in the STG
- Provides a system for controlling cost

Patients:

- Enables consistent and predictable treatment from all providers and at all locations
- Improves availability of medicines because of consistent and known usage patterns



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



MINISTRIA E SHENDETESISE

Risks

- Inaccurate or outdated guidelines will provide the wrong information.
- Often guidelines are based on existing practices rather than evidenced-based medicine.
- Guideline development and maintenance takes much time and effort.
- An STG may give false sense of security and discourage ongoing critical thinking.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



MINISTRIA E SHENDETESISE

Implementing the STG

- Printed reference materials:
 - STG manual, posters, training materials
- Official launch: involve Ministry of Health officials
- Initial training:
 - Vital concept in implementing guidelines
 - Provide training in advance of actual start date
- Reinforcement training
- Monitor use of the guidelines and outcomes
- Supervision



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



MINISTRIA E SHENDETESISE

Summary

- STGs are a widely used system to improve patient outcomes and to improve efficiency within the health care system.
- STGs should only include evidence-based medicine concepts.
- STGs provide standardized guidance to practitioners using the most appropriate medicines for specific diseases.
- STGs produces the best quality of care.
- Only formulary medicines are used so the health care system needs to provide only the medicines in the STG.