

Appendix D: Permission request letter for the Khomas Health Regional Director



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24 October 2014

The Regional Director
Khomas Regional Health Directorate
Ministry of Health and Social Services
Private Bag 13198
Windhoek
Namibia

Dear Madam

Re: Request for permission to access patients' information in conducting the study on "Effects of treatment compliance on treatment outcomes for Pulmonary Tuberculosis patients on Directly Observed Treatment-Short course in Windhoek District in Namibia".

I am Ester Ndahekelekwa Nepolo, a Masters of Public Health Student at the University of the Western Cape. I am asking for your permission to access patients' information in conducting the above mentioned study because you are the person in charge of Khomas Health Regional Directorate in which the study will be conducted. The study will be undertaken as a partial fulfilment for the completion of the Masters of Public Health Degree.

The purpose of this study is to determine whether patients' compliance with TB treatment through DOTS has got an effect on TB treatment outcomes. The study will look at the overall treatment compliance and to assess factors influencing compliance as well as relationship between compliance and different treatment outcomes for PTB patients on DOTS in Windhoek

District. The results of this study could be used to contribute to the existing body of knowledge and provide context specific information on TB management in the District, which is crucial for TB management and development of targeted strategies in promoting TB treatment compliance through DOTS in order to improve treatment success, prevent default, treatment failure and TB mortality.

A quantitative retrospective study will be used in this study, making use of all patients' records (patient treatment cards) of all new adult PTB cases of both sexes who were treated on DOTS in Windhoek District from 01 January 2013 to 31 December 2013. I will use the permission to access the District TB register where I will look at the eligible patients' records for inclusion in the study. All eligible records will be included in the study.

The TB treatment cards from the eligible files will then be collected for data collection using the data extraction tool that will require the following information: demographic information, baseline information such as type of DOT received and diagnostic classification co-morbidities and side effects, patient education verification as well as and treatment outcome. The data collected will be analysed using Epi info 7 for data entry and analysis; to determine compliance with TB treatment, frequencies and proportions of risk factors as well as the prevalence of different treatment outcomes.

The data collection will take place at the District TB outpatient, where all the District records are kept. The data collection will take 3 – 4 weeks. Therefore I also request your permission to use the TB outpatient department space during data collection. Using the TB outpatient space will enable me to maintain the confidentiality of the information contained in the records and also to safe keep the records. To help protect patient's confidentiality, the collected information will be kept at the safer place (locked cabinet), and the data will finally be stored in a password protected computer files. To maintain anonymity, no names will be included on the data abstraction tools, codes will be used instead and only the researcher will know those codes and no one else can link the information on the coded forms to any patient's information. If we write a report or article about this research project, the identity of the patients will not be revealed.

Appendix G: Permission from the Medical Superintendent of Intermediate Hospital Katutura



Republic of Namibia

Ministry of Health and Social Services

Private Bag 13215
WINDHOEK
Namibia
Intermediate Hospital Katutura
Independence Avenue
WINDHOEK
Telephone (061) 203 4004
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Enquiries: Dr. N. T. Amagulu
Date: 02 December 2014

THE OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

Ms. Ester Ndahekeleka Nepolo
P. O. Box 7647
Katutura
Windhoek
Namibia

RE: PERMISSION FOR RESEARCH ON EFFECTS OF TREATMENT COMPLIANCE ON TREATMENT OUTCOME FOR PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS ON DIRECTLY OBSERVED TREATMENT SHORT COURSE IN WINDHOEK DISTRICT AT KATUTURA INTERMEDIATE HOSPITAL, TB UNIT

This office hereby grants you permission to do research on effects treatment and outcomes for Pulmonary Tuberculosis patients at Intermediate Hospital Katutura.

Thank you.

Yours in Health,

DR. N. T. AMAGULU
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

