

CREATION OF A TRAINING PROGRAM IN PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY AND CRITICAL CARE FOR CLINICAL OFFICERS AT KIJABE HOSPITAL

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Background: As of 2018, there are only 4 trained Pediatric Critical Care doctors and 2 trained Pediatric Emergency Medicine doctors serving a population of 17 million children below 14 years of age in Kenya. Recognizing the need to upskill providers in pediatric emergency and critical care, Kijabe Hospital sought to develop a higher diploma program aimed at clinical officers successfully attaining fundamental knowledge, procedural and practical skills, professional and ethical behavior essential for the management of acutely and critically ill children in both urban and rural centres, to internationally recognized standards and addressing Kenya's increasing need for health care professionals skilled in ICU and emergency care.

Methods: Adapting the adult Emergency Critical Care Clinical Officer diploma curriculum and adding in Emergency Medicine core curriculum points, pediatricians and pediatric emergency medicine specialists along with visiting pediatric intensivists created a 1 year curriculum designed to upskill clinical officers in these skills and allow 24/7 in house coverage of the PICU, NICU, and Emergency Department at Kijabe Hospital

Results: Eight clinical officers completed the trial curriculum in March of 2018. Mortality numbers have improved over the course of the curriculum implementation, a pediatric specific ICU has been opened with round-the-clock staffing, and independent competence with pediatric resuscitation, ventilation, and identification and treatment of emergency and critical care conditions has been validated through mock codes and testing.

Conclusions: Pediatric Emergency and Critical Care Clinical Officer curriculum is feasible both in implementation and practice to expand pediatric emergency and critical care in Kenya.