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THE IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF OHASIS, A HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM IN A HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE



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 Largest Pathology Laboratory in South Africa
 Servicing > 80% of the population
 Employ > 6700
 349 pathology laboratories across South Africa, 268 sites
 2 National

• 2 National Institutes and the Cancer Registry

NATIONAL HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE (NHLS)





INTRODUCTION

OHASIS (Occupational Health and Safety Information System):

- Incidents in the workplace
- Worker health assessments (HIV & TB)
- Hazards in the workplace
- Health and Safety Committee
- Developed by the Global Health Research Program (U. B. C. Vancouver, Canada)
- Piloted elsewhere in South Africa



- First time it was used in multiple sites in South Africa
- July 2011, OHASIS was installed at the National Health Laboratory Service, South Africa
- Research was confined to the incidents in the workplace module

Method of implementation:

- Paper based system
- Step by step guide
- Reporting form distributed to all facilities
- Captured in 5 locations
- Safety, Health and Environment Officers
- Reasons:
 - -Quality control of documentation
 - Train and Implement



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Look at:

- Perceptions of laboratory managers around:
- reporting of incidents
- implementation process of OHASIS
- value of OHASIS as a tool for dealing with incidents

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METHOD

Self administered email questionnaire:

- 6 months after introduction
- Sent to 333 Lab Managers
- A response rate of 35% (n = 116)
- Disappointing
- Introducing positive bias?

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Results

Importance of	Important / useful %	OK if I have time %	Makes no difference / waste of time %
Reporting all incidents	93	2	5
Incidents investigation	89	9	2
Standardised form	97	1	2

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Question	%
Familiar with the OHASIS form and guide	86 (n = 100)
Report form available in their office	96 (n = 111)
Guide to completing form useful	90 (n = 103)
Have completed a form	50 (n = 58)
Feel competent to complete the incident investigation	70 (n = 80)
Signed off on a form if completed by someone else	65 (n = 73)
Completing a form is worth the time	82 (n = 92)
Feel that completing 2 forms is necessary (Workmans' Compensation)	63 (n = 73)

Between 1 – 5% of respondents thought various questions were not applicable



Discussion

- Audit in place to ensure availability of OHASIS form in facilities
- During audits, SHE Officers train Lab Managers and Health and Safety Reps
- SHE Officers to provide OHASIS reports to management



- Although OHASIS was rolled out as a paper based system, 59% of respondents would prefer a web based OHASIS
- The Regions with more rural facilities preferred a paper based OHASIS, reliability of internet?
- Need for a hard copy as a backup



- Eliminate need for completing two forms
 OHASIS populates Workers'
 Compensation forms
- Quality control of incident investigations must be maintained when rolled out as a web based system
- Full evaluation of he roll of OHASIS in reducing incidents can only come at a latter stage

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Acknowledgements

- Laboratory Managers
- Management and staff SHE Department
- Management and Staff IT Department
- Management and Staff Epidemiology



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