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

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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

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

AIM

Look at:
Perceptions of laboratory managers around:
– reporting of incidents
– implementation process of OHASIS
– value of OHASIS as a tool for dealing with incidents
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?

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importance of</th>
<th>Important / useful %</th>
<th>OK if I have time %</th>
<th>Makes no difference / waste of time %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reporting all incidents</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidents investigation</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standardised form</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 the role of OHASIS in reducing incidents can only come at a latter stage
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