UTILIZATION OF STANDARDIZED CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING SERVICES AMONG HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN SELECTED HEALTH FACILITIES IN MACHAKOS COUNTY - KENYA

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A research proposal submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a master’s degree in Public Health (Reproductive Health Option) of Kenyatta University
STUDENT DECLARATION

This research proposal is my original work and has not been presented for any degree or any award on any other institution.

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This thesis has been submitted for review with our approval as university supervisors

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ABSTRACT

Cancer of the cervix is the second most common reproductive tract cancer among women globally and the leading cause of death in developing countries with large inequalities in utilization of standardized cervical cancer screening services. Standardized cervical cancer screening services utilization among health care workers is equally uneven and rarely documented in developing countries. In Kenya, cervical cancer accounts for 8-20% of all cancer cases and this is projected to double by 2020. Kenya’s Cervical cancer screening services coverage is haphazard with standardized cervical cancer screening services only found in designated sites. The main objective of this study will be to assess the utilization of standardized cervical cancer screening services among health care workers in selected health facilities in Machakos County. This study will be descriptive cross-sectional in design. Reconnaissance survey was done to identify health facilities offering standardized cervical cancer screening services in Machakos County. Only 5 out of 157 health facilities offer standardized cervical cancer screening services, All these five health facilities will be selected for the study due to small sample size. Cluster sampling will be done to sample different group/cadres of health care workers in those selected health facilities Random sampling will be used to select individual participants for the study. Study population will be female health care workers aged 18-65 years working in the selected health facilities in Machakos County whereby a sample size of 316 respondents will be randomly selected for this study. Study objectives will be: to establish the proportion of health care workers utilizing cervical cancer screening services in selected health facilities in Machakos County, to determine individual attributes influence on utilization of cervical cancer screening services among the health care workers in selected health facilities in Machakos County, to establish service provider attributes’ influence on utilization of cervical cancer screening services among health care workers in selected health facilities in Machakos County, to find out facility attributes influence on utilization of cervical cancer screening services among health care workers in selected health facilities in Machakos County. Inclusion criteria will be health care workers aged 18-65 years working in selected health facilities in Machakos County willing to participate in this study. Exclusion criteria will be eligible health care workers who will be out of the health facility, or terminally ill, at the time of data collection. Research instruments to be used will be Self administered questionnaires. Qualitative data will be coded appropriately and then categorized as per emerging themes. The quantitative data will be cleaned and coded then entered into SPSS version 17.0 program for data management. The study outcome will be to improve early screening utilization rates and quality of life among female health care workers, and contribute to the body of knowledge. Feedback and recommendations will be given to stake holders to include the hospitals’ administration, the health care workers in Machakos County. Research findings will further inform the national program to corroborate the findings of the current study, and work towards planning successful interventions specifically tailored to this population.