2nd WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices
Innovation in Medical Devices for Maternal and Child Health

The potential impact of disruptive technology using a taskshifting model in rural Africa

“PRIORITY MEDICAL DEVICES FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE”

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Denver Phiri, London, UK
The Challenge
Global Challenge
Poor infrastructure
Few healthcare professionals
Limited health facilities
Financial challenge

Africa’s Challenge
Women still deliver at home
Maternal morbidity and mortality still very high
Nurse midwives do not have the proper technology at hand
MDG targets likely to be missed

MMR Trend in Tanzania

520 578 454 133

11/23/2013
Global Healthcare Reform

Task-shifting in health systems
Local incentives to retain staff in rural areas
Increase in healthcare staff and community health facilities.
External funding resources

The “Big push”

Innovation Reform

Low-cost disruptive technologies
Portable, intuitive to use, rechargeable
Training for nurses & midwives
Research studies across the globe to collect data from integrated health system network
The Implementation
Increasing literature from Africa (and beyond)


The Impact
Potential impact on society

- Increased access to U/S to identify high-risk pregnancies
- Increased uptake of antenatal services
- Enhanced diagnostic capabilities of midwives
- Improved clinical management of patients
- Allow the shift of some U/S responsibilities from physicians

Key takeaways

- Lower-mid tier health care providers can learn to perform sonographic procedures following a short training period
- More mothers can be referred to EmONC centres where SBAs can attend and facilitate safer delivery
- Properly equipping midwives with the appropriate technologies to deliver quality care is critical