

The purpose of this research was to assess the determinants of adherence to syndromic Sexually Transmitted Infection management guidelines in health centre fours, in Wakiso district, Uganda.

The study specifically sought to assess the factors that determine adherence to syndromic STI guidelines in Namayumba HCIV, Ndejje HCIV, Kasangati HCIV, Wakiso HCIV and Buwambo HCIV in Wakiso district.

**Method:** This research was a cross-sectional study focusing on determinants of adherence to syndromic STI management guidelines in health centre fours of Wakiso District. Semi-structured questionnaires were administered to medical officers, clinical officers, nurses and midwives of the five HCIVs in Wakiso district. Key informants comprising of health facility in charges were interviewed to get additional information. The health workers included in the study were selected through a census.

**Results:** The findings from the study showed that majority (73%) of the respondents were knowledgeable of syndromic guidelines on Urethral discharge, followed by genital ulcers management guidelines, and lower abdominal pain guidelines. While 52 % of the respondents were knowledgeable of atleast two STI vaccines, as 48% provided wrong responses. The effect of health facility factors on adherence measured showed that up 73% of respondents agreed that STI guidelines were provided by the health facility management while 27% disagreed. While 22% indicated management always provided STI consumables, 36% had management providesupplies sometimes with 38% having limited supply of STI consumables. Health worker reasons for non adherence to syndromic STI guidelines ranged from 36% respondents citing insufficient availability of guidelines,20% of the respondents claims they lack updated guidelines at the facility, 17% pointed out too much workload while 16% and 10% of the respondents cited that some treatment don't require algorithms and visitation default respectively.

**Conclusion:** The findings concluded that the health facility factors affected adherence to syndromic STI guidelines; the management involvement in providing STI guidelines was instrumental in improving adherence, provision of supplies for diagnosis and reminding staff about guidelines for syndromic STI management and diagnosis. To this end, the health workers attitude was generally positive in embracing STI guidelines.

**Recommendations:** There is need for a national approach in the redistribution of STI syndromic management guidelines and implement the guidelines in all health facilities in Uganda.

Retraining of health workers in syndromic STI management guidelines is critical in promotion of its implementation or adherence to guidelines. Further, observational research is recommended to establish exactly what health workers do to clients during syndromic STI management is recommended.