

ESTABLISHING A COVID-19 ISOLATION AND TREATMENT CENTRE AT PARIRENYATWA GROUP OF HOSPITALS IN HARARE, ZIMBABWE

Vimbainashe Musenyereki^{1,3} and Marcelyn T. Magwenzi^{2,3}

1. Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals, Harare, Zimbabwe

2. Bindura University of Science Education, Bindura, Zimbabwe

3. Infection Control Association of Zimbabwe

Infection prevention and control input throughout the renovations and upgrading of existing facilities contributed significantly to the successful establishment of a safe COVID-19 treatment centre at Parirenyatwa Group Hospital

BACKGROUND & CHALLENGES TO IMPLEMENTATION

- Parirenyatwa group of hospitals (PGH) is a quaternary 1100 bedded hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe
- Comprised of the main acute care hospital, maternity, eye and psychiatric hospitals.
- The COVID-19 threat, early in 2020 signalled the need for PGH to be prepared to manage and provide specialist services for COVID-19 cases as the one infectious diseases facility in the city designated for isolation and treatment would not be able to cope.
- The daunting task involved:
 - identifying an appropriate section of the hospital to convert into a COVID-19 treatment unit
 - to ensure the section became functional for managing COVID-19 patients without putting the rest of the facility at risk of COVID-19.
 - maintaining delivery of other essential services

METHODS / ACTIVITY

- First a COVID-19 multidisciplinary team of experts comprising anaesthetics, physicians, clinical director, engineers, architects, an infection prevention and control (IPC) focal person (supported by experts from the Infection Control Association of Zimbabwe) was established on 22 March 2020.
- The team of experts did a situation analysis of potential hospital sections to identify the best suited for use as a COVID-19 treatment unit.
- Once a suitable site was agreed upon, the team had several meetings, visits and walk through drills to ensure the essential requirements for a COVID-19 treatment unit were taken into account.

RESULTS

- The southern wing of the main hospital was found to be ideal for converting into a COVID-19 Treatment Unit. The section had the following important attributes among others:
 - housed the critical wards,
 - pipled oxygen supply
 - mechanical ventilation infrastructure albeit non-functional for years..



Fig 1: PGH Management touring the completed Isolation Unit in preparation to starting COVID-19 admissions



Fig 2: Part of the ICU in the CCOVID-19 Isolation and Treatment Unit



Fig 3: signage indicating the entrance to the COVID-19 Isolation Ward

RESULTS

- After four months of renovations and upgrades, the 425 bedded treatment unit was completed, comprising:
 - two theatres,
 - 27 ICU beds (previously the hospital had only 10 ICU beds)
 - four renal beds for dialysis
- The remaining 394 catering for other departments high dependency, mild to moderate cases and patient under investigation ward
- One way traffic flow from the central donning area was established.
- There are 'mini' donning and doffing rooms in the wards allowing staff to change in case of contamination during a shift.
- Negative pressure ventilation was revived in the critical care areas and theatres.
- The facility has capacity to manage severe, mild and moderate COVID-19 cases, including those requiring specialist services.
- The treatment unit received its first COVID-19 positive patient on 10 June 2020.

CONCLUSIONS

Team work and due consideration of IPC input throughout the process led to the successful establishment of a COVID-19 Isolation and treatment facility at PGH.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals management, staff and IPC Team
- Ministry of Health and Child Care and partners
- Bindura University of Science Education, Department of Health Sciences, Bindura, Zimbabwe
- Infection Control Association of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe

CONTACT

Vimbainashe Musenyereki

musenyerekiv@gmail.com



Presented at the
8th ICAN Congress

23 - 25 November 2021

sbs.co.za/ICAN2021

MOVING FORWARD WITH IPC
IN AFRICA FOR AFRICA

