

The NURHI SMS Contraceptive Logistics Management System

The Contraceptive Logistic Management Systems (CLMS) in Nigeria continues to be weak despite large investments and continuous technical support by the government of Nigeria and different donors in the area of training and commodity supply. The major challenges with the system range from inappropriate documentation of consumption data due to weak provider CLMS skills, unavailable CLMS tools and irregular restocking of health facilities with adequate FP contraceptive commodities.

This situation has led to a state of almost perennial stock out of FP commodities in many Nigerian health facilities. The implication of this being that the client or end user may not have their method of choice when needed.

To checkmate this situation the NURHI project developed an SMS based commodity tracking system that uses current mobile phone technology platform to track contraceptive consumption and stock levels in the NURHI supported high volume facilities located within the six program cities of Ilorin, Ibadan, Kaduna, FCT, Benin & Zaria. The SMS commodity-tracking system provides a simple way of monitoring stocks in NURHI supported high volume sites thereby allowing for pro-activeness in managing contraceptive commodities thereby preventing stock outs and forestalling wastage. The system therefore allows for speedy and accurate decision-making.

The SMS system uses the electronic versions of the national CLMS forms (specifically the Daily Consumption Record) and allows for data inputted through the phone to be transferred real time by automatically being forwarded and displayed on a monitor through a web interface. Here, the data can be viewed and used to inform decision-making. The data is captured via an SMS message that is sent to an assigned number.

Basic requirements for the system to function include: mobile phone (any regular phone would do); airtime for SMS; a job aid; computer and Internet access to view the data

The system monitors FP commodity stocks at the facility level, NURHI views this and alerts the respective providers to make their requisition on time to avoid stock outs.

The SMS system saves time that would otherwise be lost using the conventional method therefore the SMS system allows the FP providers and NURHI to be more proactive in managing stock outs thus increasing the uptake of FP methods and contributing in the long-term to increased mCPR.