

Innovative Health Kiosk to bring Healthcare Closer to the People

The Kenya Medical Research Institute is set to launch an innovative study that seeks to use health kiosks manned by Community Health Workers (CHWs) and trained nurses in selected rural community markets to address the ever rising Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) challenge in Kenya.

The study titled, “*Strengthening the Primary Care System for Prevention and Control of Cardiovascular Diseases in Kenya: Feasibility Study of Health Kiosks in Community Markets,*” will first be carried out as a pilot project in four community markets in Vihiga Country.

Known as the “Newton-Utafiti Research Project”, the study seeks to address answer issues related to health challenges faced by the community in accessing healthcare such as the distance covered to reach a facility, health literacy and availability to well-trained personnel.

Besides, Cardiovascular diseases other NCDs to be addressed through learning and system thinking include Diabetes, High Blood Pressure, other lifestyle challenges such as smoking, alcohol abuse and lack of exercise.

“By setting up well-equipped and manned Health Kiosks within markets, we are hoping to see patients walking-in for regular check-up and promoting early screening,” said Dr. Lydia Kaduka, the study’s Principal Investigator.

The study will probe the role that health kiosks manned by Community Health Workers (CHWs), Health Volunteers and nurses in community markets play in fostering the primary care system for prevention and control of NCDs in Kenya.

The MRC-NRF funded study also seeks to place great emphasis on the engagement of stakeholders from community to county leadership in the design, implementation and evaluation processes, promoting direct uptake of findings by the County Government of Vihiga.

The project is a collaboration between KEMRI, University of Nairobi, Moi University, Strathmore University, and King’s Collage University.

Director General KEMRI, Prof. Yeri Kombe will join Vihiga County Governor, H.E. Wilberforce Otichilo and other partners during the launch of this project this Thursday, 15th, August 2019.

By Stella Njung’e