Closing the knowledge and the “know-do” gap for better TB transmission control via GHDonline

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To further democratize access to critical knowledge and improve the global delivery of health care, GHDonline:

• Documenting the impact of GHDonline in the field and developing strong evidence for collaboration in VPCs with the GHDonline Research Project. This will involve the gathering and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative information and the production of reports documenting the activities of GHDonline communities.

• Leveraging partnerships with organizations to provide access to more critical information and to support their work.

• Broadening the reach of GHDonline by fostering multi-language collaboration and inviting organizations and professionals to join.

TB Infection Control Community: Impact

Objective

Infection control is essential to the management of tuberculosis, but is very challenging to implement in resource-constrained settings (RCS) where professionals often work in isolation with little access to readily available practical information or expert advice.

We will demonstrate how hundreds of practitioners representing a variety of organizations have created a vibrant virtual collaboration space on GHDonline: the TB Infection Control Community (http://www.ghdonline.org/), where they share proven practices, access lists of trusted international consultants, engage in problem-solving, and address challenges to control the transmission of TB.

Methods

GHDonline (http://www.ghdonline.org) is the virtual platform of the Global Health Delivery (GHD) Project. Health providers around the world have a wealth of practical knowledge but typically work in isolation, with little opportunity to learn from the experiences of peers or share their own best practices. Meanwhile, the Internet has revolutionized the dissemination of information, including in health care, but sifting through a mountain of online data is impractical for busy practitioners in the field.

To address this need, GHD Information Technology, Knowledge Management, and Global Health leaders developed GHDonline, an innovative online platform for Virtual Professional Collaboration (VPCs). Four communities were launched on June 27, 2008: GHDonline communities are:

• Focused on specific global health delivery challenges.

• Guided by expert moderators.

• Run by members, not by a single organization.

• Members can provide access to more critical information and to support their work.

Discussion 1: Outdoor Sputum Induction in South Africa

Discussion started March 9, 2009; ©2009 Google - Map data ©2009 Tele Atlas, MapLink/Tele Atlas, AND, Europa Technologies

- Members can publish resources by uploading files and links.
- Members can search for information in a custom-built search engine.
- Members can access restricted content thanks to partnerships.