Ministry of Health, Wellness, Human Services and Gender Relations, Saint Lucia

Primary Health Care (Community Health Nursing Service)

Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI)

Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) Vaccination Coverage Survey

Terms of Reference for Data Management Coordinator

Background

The Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) commenced in Saint Lucia in 1977 and committed to procuring its vaccines through the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) EPI Revolving Fund. The government provides the budget for all the implementation components of the EPI.

Immunization is delivered primarily at the Maternal and Child Health clinics through 36 Primary Care facilities by the Community Health Nurses of Family Nurse Practitioners in the public sector. There has been a well-established school vaccination program where children are vaccinated at the schools they attend integrated with other health interventions. Immunization is also offered at six private physician offices. One private hospital procures a limited supply of vaccines by individual order mainly for adults.

Measles Mumps Rubella vaccines are administered to children at 1 year and a booster dose at 4 - 5 years prior to school entry. Vaccination coverage of MMR1 has been 95% and above, whilst the reported coverage MMR2 has been between 60% to 80% for the past ten years.

In 2011Saint Lucia completed the verification and documentation of measles, rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS) elimination in keeping with PAHO's Directing Council Resolution CSP27.R2 of 2007. Consequently, countries are urged to maintain high MMR vaccination coverage of 95% and above in every community and district, and to improve surveillance for the detection and management of cases and outbreaks of these diseases in a timely fashion.

The primary purpose of this survey is to determine the coverage of MMR1 and MMR2 among children born in 2004 to 2009 in Grade K through 5 and Special needs schools and as a secondary objective MMR1 for children 12 -36 months.

Objectives:

1) Assess MMR2 vaccination coverage by area (A and B, see below), by region, sex, grade and cohort
2) Assess MMR2 vaccination timeliness
3) Assess vaccination status with other vaccines recommended for children <5 years of age
4) Assess factors related to incomplete vaccination schedules
5) Determine the main reasons parents or guardians give for not having their children up-to date with their vaccination schedule
6) Assess the proportion of children being vaccinated in the private sector
7) Assess health passport retention, completeness and quality
8) Assess the knowledge and attitudes of parents and guardians regarding vaccines and immunization services
9) Assess the knowledge and attitudes of school principals and selected teachers regarding immunization requirements for school entry
10) Compare parental/guardian recall with documented MMR2 vaccination (health passport or clinic record)
11) Compare MMR2 vaccination information in the health passport vs. clinic record for selected situations (e.g.. Doses given outside the recommended age, particularly earlier than 4 years of age).
12) Assess vaccination status for all age appropriate antigens in children aged 12-36 months of selected homes

The country will be grouped into two segments by regions with similar socioeconomic status, and surveys conducted in both segments (approximately ___ children in each survey).

Interviewers not currently employed in the health sector will be selected to conduct interviews of principals at the schools and caregivers of selected children in their homes. Photos of vaccination records will be taken and transcription of records will also be necessary for validation of vaccination at Wellness Centers. Interviewing teams will be supervised by an assigned Public Health Nursing Supervisor (PHNS).

Duties and Tasks of Data Management Coordinator

- Participate in the selection of data entry clerks
- Conduct and document the random selection of children
- Train and supervise data entry clerks
- Design data entry template -
- Ensure data quality checks which will involve data cleaning and reconciliation before analysis
- Provide feedback to the technical team/implementation team on data quality

- Liaise with survey coordinator to solve any arising issues
- Participate in data analysis

Skills, Knowledge, Experience and Qualifications Required

- Selected candidate must be in the post of Biostatistician at the MOH
- Ability to work with the relevant technical team and PAHO
- Competence in data base design and data analysis
- Sound knowledge of research studies

Deliverables:

Generation and presentation of survey data tables

Time Frame: Start date: May 2015
End date: December 2015

Reporting:

The data management coordinator will report to the Coordinator of the survey