



Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority

PRESS RELEASE

Electronic Monitoring of Medical Drugs and Supplies Inventory System

Six health facilities in the Tambul-Nebilyer district of Western Highlands Province were the first to trial out an electronic Monitoring of Medical Drugs Drug Stock (eMMDS) and Vaccines. This initiative is essential for ensuring that health facilities have adequate medical supplies.

The program was launched recently, led by Dr. Madison Dat, the Deputy Director of District Curative Health Services for the Western Highlands Provincial Health Authority (WHPHA).

The implementation received technical support from PATH (PNG Australia Transition to Health) officers Jacob Wik and Elijah John.

The system aims to generate reports to aid management in making evidence-based decisions on:

1. Drug stock levels at health facilities
2. Drug usage
3. Drug expiration dates
4. Updates on medical consumables
5. Status of selected health standard indicators
6. Time-saving measures

Dr. Dat explained that he and the PATH team have developed a database in which consumables taken from the Area Medical Supplies (AMS) are recorded. This electronic system allows the AMS, the Provincial Health Authority (PHA), and management to consistently monitor data.

Mr. John emphasized that the PATH program aims to strengthen the health system, highlighting the electronic medical supply inventory project as a key initiative aligned with this goal. He thanked Dr. Dat for initiating the project and expressed optimism about its potential to cost-effectively address the drug stock management challenges faced not only by WHPHA but other PHAs in the country as well.

Dr. Dat added that the PHA pharmacist will monitor drug stock coming in and going out electronically at the PHA headquarters. The eMMDS will provide alerts to facilities when there is low or excess stock of a particular drug based on the collected data.

The system was initially rolled out at six health facilities in the Tambul-Nebilyer district, including: Gia, Kiripia, Alkena, Tambul, Paiakona, and Pabrabuk health centres.

If successful, the system will be rolled out to other health facilities across the three districts (Hagen Central, Mul-Baiyer and Dei) in the province. Furthermore, six tablets were funded by PATH and were given to the six OICs, and training on data entry using those tablets was conducted to help them become familiar with the system.

This initiative was a collaborative effort between PATH and WHPHA. **Ends///**