

Conclusion This study demonstrated the importance of promoting visits to an OP before returning to work. In the future, OHS could facilitate return to work by supporting companies in implementing sick-leave policy. Contacting workers on sick leave and offering opportunities for visits prior to return to work could create added value for employees and employers.

847 SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS TO IMPROVE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE – 1: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Introduction Although information systems (IS) have been widely applied to address health concerns worldwide, few initiatives address workers health and safety. This is especially the case in the health sector, an area the High Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth acknowledged to be in need of attention, particularly in low and middle-income countries.

Methods Applying a context-mechanism-outcome study design, we analyse how a comprehensive IS initially introduced in Canada was successfully transferred to South Africa (SA) through a partnership of two WHO Collaborating Centres in Occupational Health and Safety. We particularly explore contextual (socio-political and technological) characteristics at micro, meso and macro levels and the processes applied have affected outcomes.

Results Despite limited success in initial piloting in a resource stressed provincial health department, a technology transfer partnership relying on SA technical IS core capacities and management commitment to maintain systems enabled successful application of OHASIS (Occupational Health and Safety Information System) through South Africa's National Health Laboratory Service. Success has been observed through patterns of use (incident investigation, hazard assessment, workforce health) of the system and the development of new modules to meet additional management needs (e.g. waste management, audits). Application of OHASIS is presently being scaled up in the Gauteng province health sector and in Namibia, with considerable additional interest in wider application being expressed.

Discussion The efficacy of technical systems to enable surveillance of health and safety consequences for workers together with consideration of the workplace factors and processes that affect this is necessary but not sufficient for success. Documentation of how the system is implemented (possible through analysis of the analytics of use) as well as how analysis of evidence can enable ongoing research and management improvement is critical to ensuring that commitments are maintained and the reports needed by users are made available.

861 SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS TO IMPROVE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE – 2: CASE STUDIES

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Introduction With over 7400 employees in 346 laboratories and 3 national institutes across South Africa, the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) faces the challenge of how to provide occupational health, biosafety and biosecurity services with limited resources. The Occupational Health and Safety Information System (OHASIS) was initially developed at the University of British Columbia in Canada as a multi-modular, secure online information system and is now a joint venture with South Africa's National Institute for Occupational Health.

Methods By reviewing 6 years of OHASIS and health and safety program implementation at NHLS, including surveying of users, we provide a qualitative and quantitative summary of experience, including presentation of illustrative cases, and discuss the strengths and limitations of using a comprehensive information system to improve occupational health and safety.

Results Online surveys (2013 and 2015) indicated an overall improvement in many areas of health, biosafety and biosecurity including training, trust of management, reporting incidents, use of Personal Protective Equipment and participation in committees. Over 1600 incidents have been recorded, with increased usage following introduction of a confidential self-report mechanism. This has enabled systematised reviews by health and safety committees, the Safety, Health and Environment team and NHLS management. In addition to existing modules (e.g. incident reporting and investigation; employee health; analytics), new modules have been added in response to user requests: Audits; Waste; Maintenance; and Training. A strategic new module on Health and Safety Committees is currently underway.

Discussion Surveys and discussions reveal a need for ongoing attention to implementation. Analysis of trends and associations is being emphasised as long term sustainability solutions are being sought, especially in response to the widespread interest for introducing OHASIS in other settings. The National Institute for Occupational Health has the exclusive rights to roll OHASIS out throughout Africa.

899 EXPLORING KEY INFORMANT PERCEPTIONS REGARDING THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS AMONG HEALTHCARE WORKERS

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