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Healthcare associated infections: Development of surgical site infections surveillance tool for low-and-middle-income-countries-Nigeria as a case study

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Surveillance is a core component of the World Health Organization (WHO) Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) strategy for healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). Although these infections are more frequent in developing than developed countries of the world, data in the former are very limited and usually of poor quality. A major constraint is the non-applicability of the internationally accepted standard surveillance tools for HAI data collection in Low-and-Middle-Income-Countries (LMICs) as a result of inadequate laboratory support, costs, and training gaps that exist among IPC practitioners on surveillance of HAIs. A Healthcare Associated Infection Working Group (HAIWG) in 2017 met in Abuja, Nigeria to develop protocol and tool for Surgical Site Infections (SSI) surveillance in the country using documents obtained from Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) Ireland, United States Centre for Disease Control (CDC), European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) and the WHO Global Guideline for the Prevention of Surgical Site Infections. Using the clinical case definition, SSI surveillance tool and protocol were developed and field tested in six selected healthcare facilities across the six geopolitical zones of the country. The results of the field testing showed that this surveillance tool can be applied across healthcare facilities in Nigeria and adopted by other LMICs of the world. There is a need to develop similar tools for surveillance of other HAIs in LMICs.

Biography

S S Taiwo obtained his MD from University of Ibadan College of Medicine Nigeria and currently a Consultant Clinical Microbiologist and Infectious Disease Specialist to Ladoke Akintola University of Technology Teaching Hospital, Ogbomoso. He is also the Director of Clinical Microbiology Laboratory that is enlisted by the Nigeria Center for Disease Control as a sentinel site for routine antimicrobial resistance (AMR) data collection for the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS). His research focuses on the clinical epidemiology of AMR pathogens involved in healthcare and community-associated infections, with interest in methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

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