

**NATIONAL POLICIES RELEVANT TO  
THE USE OF RDTs IN NIGERIA  
BY  
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**AT A CONSULTATIVE WORKING MEETING ON  
MALARIA RAPID DIAGNOSTIC TESTS AND  
FEVER CASE MANAGEMENT IN THE PRIVATE  
HEALTH SECTOR IN AFRICA IN ENTEBBE,  
UGANDA ON OCTOBER 20 – 21, 2015**

# WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

- ❑ Development of National Guidelines for Diagnosis and Treatment of Malaria, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., May, 2015 adopted 3T Strategy with all suspected cases of malaria properly diagnosed **using RDTs** and microscopy.
- ❑ National Guidelines and Strategies for Malaria Prevention and Control During Pregnancy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, February 2014 also prescribes use of RDTs for diagnosis before treatment of malaria especially in the first trimester during pregnancy.
- ❑ NAFDAC has registered RDTs kits in Nigeria e.g.
  - (i) Vikia Malaria Test Kit
  - (ii) Rapitest Malaria pf/PAN Triline Antigen Card Test
  - (iii) LabAcon Malaria

# WHAT IS/COULD BE EFFECTIVE

- ❑ Community Pharmacies (CPs) and Patent and Proprietary Medicines Vendors Licences (PPMVL) Shops have been identified as the first port of call in the private sector by majority of persons with suspected cases of malaria.
- ❑ Health care providers at all levels are target audience.
- ❑ National Guidelines recognize informal health (community based) care providers such as:
  - Role model care givers (RMC),
  - Voluntary village health workers (VHWs),
  - PPMVs

# WHAT HAS NOT BEEN EFFECTIVE

- ❑ Operationalizing the RDTs within the Community Pharmacies and PPMVL Shops has not been effective.
- ❑ Adequate and wide-sread capacity for use of RDTs among informal health care providers.
- ❑ Availability of the RDTs in the private health care facilities.

# CHALLENGES

- ❑ The RDTs are considered too technical to be handled by any person other than registered medical laboratory scientists or technologists in some quarters.
- ❑ The RDTs kit has not yet been included in the list of approved items to be handled by the Patent and Proprietary Medicines Vendors (PPMVs).
- ❑ National Council on Health stepped down the memorandum on approval of PPMVs to use RDTs for diagnosis of malarial at its 57<sup>th</sup> meeting in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State on October 27 – 31, 2014.

# WHAT SHOULD BE DONE

- ❑ The PCN and the NMEP have been mandated by the NCH to work out the modalities for inclusion of RDTs on the list of approved items to be handled by the PPMVs.
- ❑ There is need to secure the understanding and cooperation of MLSCN on the use of RDTs in the community pharmacies and among community based health providers such as the PPMVs.
- ❑ There is need to conduct vigorous training of the Community Pharmacists and the PPMVL holders on the use of RDTs for diagnosis of malaria.



**THANK YOU.**