

Africa Health subscription information

There is a three-tier price structure:

1. For African-based readers see below for details.
2. For UK and EU-based readers £78 (airmail postage included).
3. For readers in all other countries £111 or US\$186 (airmail postage included).

Subscribe locally

Healthcare professionals within Africa can subscribe to *Africa Health* for just £40 per annum. Copies will be sent by airmail from the UK. Payment can either be made by transfer (Western Union is OK) to our UK office with payments made out to FSG Communications Ltd (and email advice to: penny@fsg.co.uk), OR you can pay the equivalent of £30 in local currency to the offices below. Please note, copies of the journal will be posted to you from the office you pay to.

- **Ghana** To: PMB Accra North, Accra, Ghana. Cheques payable to: Knowledge Innovations. Queries to: Mr Kwami Ahiabenu II +233 244 319181 Email: kwami@penplusbytes.org
- **Kenya** To: Africa Health, c/o Phillips Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Power Technics Complex, Mombasa Road, P O Box 46662-00100, Nairobi, Kenya. Email: ppl@phillipspharma.com Cheques payable to: Phillips Pharmaceuticals Ltd
- **Nigeria** To: Africa Health, PO Box 7247, Lagos, Nigeria. Queries to: Dr A P Balogun +234 809 999 9256. Cheques payable to: Afroset Nigeria Ltd. Email: balo@afroset.com
- **Tanzania** To: Africa Health, c/o APHFTA, 55/644 Lumumba Street P O Box 13234 Tel: +255 22 2184667/2184508. Email: ogillo@yahoo.com. Cheques payable to APHFTA.
- **Zimbabwe** To: Africa Health, c/o USK International Ltd, P O Box 4891, Harare, Zimbabwe. Email: usk@ecoweb.co.zw. Cheques payable to: USK International Ltd.

Impatient patient

The issue of quality care and patient safety is rising steadily up the agenda internationally. In part it is simply a further manifestation of how civil society has gained a voice over the last couple of decades, but it is also a response to the patchy state of (principally) public health services in many countries.

We are probably all aware of hospitals or health centres that we would not send our own children to for treatment. In some countries we know many.

The long-established International Alliance of Patients' Organisations (IAPO) is raising the bar with an international patients day on October 30. The idea is to roll back the long-standing rather patronising status that exists between health provider and patient in many institutions, and instead move to a more patient-centred system of health delivery. To IAPO the essence of patient-centred healthcare is that the healthcare system is designed and delivered to address the healthcare needs and preferences of patients so that healthcare is appropriate and cost-effective. By promoting greater patient responsibility and optimal usage, patient-centred healthcare, IAPO argues, should lead to improved health outcomes, and better value for money.

The five principles that IAPO advocates are centred around i) respect; ii) choice and empowerment; iii) patient involvement in health policy; iv) access to all appropriate services and support; and v) accurate, relevant, and comprehensive health information.

Africa's health professionals need to

reflect on this. Can we make it better for the patient? For some institutions it will require some tweaking, but for many, the journey has not commenced. It really must.

We have a very busy few months coming up. Seems it is the conference and exhibition season. First up is the African Pharmaceutical Summit (with the African Development Bank) in Tunisia towards the end of September (23/24th Sept: www.africapharmasummit.com); then Medic West Africa in Lagos in mid October (16–18 October: www.medicwestafrica.com); and finally Medic East Africa in Nairobi in early November (6–8 November: www.medicestafrica.com). The email wires are already rattling madly with preparatory work. All three are on track to be significant events.

In November we also intend to launch an East African edition of *Africa Health*. Meanwhile readers in Nigeria may have noticed that there are more copies around? Commencing with the July edition, we secured support to allow us to increase our print circulation by 50%. So, 35 years on... the old journal is moving expansively towards middle age!

All best
Bryan

Bryan Pearson
(bryan@fsg.co.uk)





An Ocean of Knowledge in a Drop of Blood

Can a single drop of blood help Africa achieve its millennium goals? It can when enough people have access to accurate blood testing — turning all their drops into an ocean of knowledge. Knowledge that can help improve maternal health, reduce child mortality, and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

At HemoCue, we believe there's no reason healthcare workers and the people of Africa should have to do without accurate test results when there's no lab at hand. Conveniently portable, our range of analyzers

gives you uncompromising accuracy in screening for anemia, infections, diabetes and more — even in the most remote locations. Plus, HemoCue analyzers are easy to use.

With lab accuracy accessible anywhere, you can make an even bigger difference across the continent for people affected by disease and malnutrition. To learn more about our point-of-care analyzers and the other ways we can support you, contact your HemoCue representative or email: info@hemocue.se

Hemoglobin

HbA1c

Glucose

Urine Albumin

WBC / WBC DIFF

HemoCue has been a leader in Point of Care medical diagnostics for over 30 years. We specialize in giving healthcare providers tests that deliver fast results with the precision expected of a central lab. Visit hemocue.com

