

26th February 2012

Nkawkaw Holy Family Hospital Meetings 14th February 2012

a. Nurses Training College Tutors. b. Medical Superintendent.

INTRODUCTION.

Motec Life UK has been collaborating with the Holy Family Hospital Nkawkaw since 2008. Recourse personnel concentrate on teaching at the Nurses training college, support improvements in nursing, clinical, public health and laboratory services. A report filed by the visiting October 2011 team highlighted persistent problems at the hospital. There was a suggestion that the tutors at the Nurses College appeared to isolate themselves from our visiting groups. Also fewer and fewer qualified staff nursing staff were participating in formal educational programmes. I arranged a meeting to find solutions to the problem. Two separate meetings were held at Nkawkaw. The first was between Motec and representatives of the tutors and the second was with the Medical Director. A summary of the discussions are presented below.

a. NURSES TRAINING COLLEGE

Time 0730- 08.30. In attendance –

Representing Motec Life –UK: Mr P. Ofori-Atta (myself) and Dr (Miss) Tal Heymann.

Representing NTC Tutors: Outgoing Principal;

Deputy Principal, Incumbent Principal. In charge of Surgery, Psychology and Traditional Medicine ;

The tutor in charge of pharmacology and nutrition; and

The Tutor for Management, research, perspective of nursing and basic nursing.

Meeting started with self introduction of participants. It soon became clear that the current Principal was on her way out of the school on transfer to Damango and that her deputy was going to take over her role.

Discussions centred on finding solution to the apparent lack of co-operation between the tutorial staff of the NTC and Motec volunteers. It was stated that some of the tutorial staff actually paid evening social calls on the visiting team in October 2011 contrary to the perception created in the report received from the October 2011 trip. One of the Tutors confirmed that she was one of the few who were with Motec. It was however agreed that there was an urgent need to improve the collaboration in order to teach in areas that are relevant to the curriculum and more importantly to fill the ‘deficient’ areas. A more careful understanding of the local dynamics of teaching by the volunteers and a gentle ‘inclusive approach’ to teaching was considered necessary to improve the collaboration. It was unanimously agreed that more formal social meetings between the volunteers and the tutors plus student leaders will be needed to smoothen the working relationships. I agreed on behalf of Motec to organise and sponsor such socials in future during our educational visits. The meeting ended with a guided tour of the school library. It was apparent that MIDA-MOTEC book donations have helped in supporting the library which was quite poor for a school with about 250 students.



b. Meeting with the Medical Superintendent

Time 08.30- 09.20 – Medical Superintendent and Mr P. Ofori-Atta (myself).

Discussion was brief. It was acknowledged by both parties that a lot needed to be done to involve the qualified staff in our collaboration. The Medical Director elaborated the request from the management for Motec to organise in-service training seminars/workshops. He explained the proposal to allow half of the nursing staff to have alternate full day study days over one week period. This represented an effort to encourage staff to make the most of the collaboration. A list of topics to be covered was presented by the Medical Director. It was quite obvious that emergency care of patients in the Accident and Emergency/public health were top priority. A term of reference for 2012 working visits was developed to address the request.

The meeting finished with a pledge to get things working better.

Recommendations:

- Better communications and exchange of ideas between Motec and tutorial staff of Nkawkaw NTC through emails, joint social/academic meetings.
- A more humble approach to the collaboration by volunteers.
- Continued support for the NTC library of Nkawkaw through the supply of books recommended by the school.
- Motec recourse Personnel to provide in-service training for qualified staff of Holy Family Hospital Nkawkaw through a week long workshop provided he staff will have alternate day full day study leave. The first of such full dedicated workshop is planned for October 2012 which will concentrate on Accident and Emergency care, Best Nursing Practice and an element of Public Health. A mock teaching session may happen in June 2012.

P. Ofori-Atta
President Motec Life -UK