
ABSTRACT

Background: Chronic liver disease is one of the most prevalent morbidity problems in Egypt and Liver transplantation is the only therapeutic option. Egypt has many well established liver transplantation programs. In order to secure better health outcomes as well as sustainability of delivered services, health systems need to be addressed. Six building blocks constitute the overarching WHO health systems framework.

Aim: Strengthening the Liver Transplantation program at Liver Transplant unit, Cairo University hospitals.

Design: A cross sectional, operational research that builds on retrospective and prospective analysis of data.

Setting: Liver Transplantation unit at Cairo University Hospitals located in El-Manial specialized hospital.

Results: Assessing and analyzing existing Liver Transplantation program system framework, components, processes, outputs and outcomes was done for the six building blocks of health system and an added seventh block as following: leadership and governance; health financing; human resources management; pharmaceutical drugs and supplies; health information system; service delivery as well as research and development.

SWOC analysis was done based on the baseline assessment; accordingly, a framework for the suggested system level interventions to improvement of health system performance was developed. Priority areas for improvement were indentified and worked upon including formulation of vision and mission statements, documenting and publishing policies and procedures for key functions of the unit, designing a template for documenting meeting minutes, helping with establishment of scientific research committee, auditing committee and research ethics committee. Documenting and publishing job description for each member of the multidisciplinary team, formulating Standard Operating Procedures (SOP`s) for purchasing/requesting or dispensing of pharmaceuticals. Policies and procedures for medical records were formulated and published. A program for computerized clinical data was developed. Also filing and records keeping were improved.

Conclusions: Health systems strengthening using the six building blocks approach could apply to Liver transplant program but needs time, effort, team commitment and Multi-sectoral cooperation.

Key Words: Health system, Strengthening health system, Liver Transplant program