

Longitudinal Evaluation of a Randomised Field Trial for Health Systems Adoption in Tanzanian District Hospitals

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ABSTRACT

Background: Health systems strengthening in sub-Saharan Africa requires robust evidence on the adoption of new practices within district-level facilities. However, longitudinal data on the sustained uptake of interventions following initial implementation support is scarce.

Purpose and objectives: This study aimed to evaluate the long-term adoption rates of a standardised clinical documentation system introduced via a randomised field trial in district hospitals, and to identify institutional factors influencing sustained use.

Keywords: *Health systems strengthening, Sub-Saharan Africa, Randomised controlled trial, Implementation science, Longitudinal study, District hospitals, Adoption rates*

Article Highlights

- Longitudinal data reveals a significant decline in adoption rates post-implementation support.
- Staff turnover rates and supervisory gaps were key predictors of adoption decay.
- Initial trial success did not guarantee long-term integration into hospital systems.
- Findings underscore the need for embedded, continuous institutional support mechanisms.

Methodological Note

Longitudinal analysis of 24 facilities used GEE models to assess adoption over time, accounting for hospital-level clustering and time-varying covariates like staff turnover.

This study provides critical longitudinal evidence on the sustainability of health systems interventions.

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

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