



# Assessing Traditional Medicine in West African Government Health Services: Acceptability and Usage Patterns Among Patients

Funmilayo Ogunwusi<sup>1,2</sup>, Sunday Ifunanya<sup>3</sup>, Idowu Adebayo<sup>4,5</sup>, Olubukola Adebisi<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Public Health, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

<sup>2</sup> Department of Internal Medicine, University of Benin

<sup>3</sup> Department of Clinical Research, National Centre for Technology Management (NACETEM)

<sup>4</sup> Department of Clinical Research, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

<sup>5</sup> University of Benin

<sup>6</sup> Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

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**Correspondence:** [fogunwusi@hotmail.com](mailto:fogunwusi@hotmail.com)

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## Author notes

*Funmilayo Ogunwusi is affiliated with Department of Public Health, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

*Sunday Ifunanya is affiliated with Department of Clinical Research, National Centre for Technology Management (NACETEM) and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

*Idowu Adebayo is affiliated with Department of Clinical Research, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

*Olubukola Adebisi is affiliated with Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Traditional medicine remains prevalent in many West African countries, including Nigeria, within government health services despite increasing integration of modern healthcare practices. A mixed-methods approach will be employed, combining quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews to explore patient perceptions and practices regarding traditional and modern healthcare services. Findings indicate a significant proportion (45%) of patients prefer traditional medicine over conventional treatments for chronic conditions, particularly in rural areas where access to Western health facilities is limited. The integration of traditional medicine into government health services is perceived positively by patients but varies significantly based on socio-economic and geographical factors. Health policymakers should consider the cultural significance of traditional medicine when designing healthcare policies, ensuring its appropriate inclusion without compromising patient safety. Traditional Medicine, Government Health Services, Patient Acceptability, Usage Patterns, Nigeria Treatment effect was estimated with  $\text{text} \{ \text{logit} \} (\pi) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i$ , and uncertainty reported using confidence-interval based inference.

**Keywords:** *African geography, cultural anthropology, ethnobotany, qualitative research, integrative medicine, community health, patient perspectives*

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