

Improving the Quality of Pediatric ART Services in Zambia through Pharmacist Training

The Pediatric ART Centers of Excellence in Lusaka and Livingstone, Zambia, are partnering with the Center for International Health (CIH) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to improve the quality of HIV-related treatment and care available to children and young adults in Zambia.

With PEPFAR support, partners are building local training capacity to enable pharmacists in Lusaka and Livingstone to better organize and manage pharmacy services thereby enhancing the delivery of quality HIV/AIDS care to mothers, infants, and children.



In April, partners conducted their first professional exchange to Milwaukee. Standing left to right are Mark Anderson, Fred Tavill, Chipepo Kankasa, Tom Lausten, Rachel Sikabalu, Enock Chikatula, and Tyson Muungo.

CIH experts conducted an assessment visit to Zambia in November 2006. A team of four partners from Zambia then traveled to Milwaukee April 1-7.

During this visit, the Zambian partners learned about the pharmacy and other related resources of CIH consortium institutions, as well as local community-based programs relevant to the partnership's objectives. Other highlights included a tour of Children's

Hospital of Milwaukee, where they shadowed pharmacists on patient rounds and toured the School of Pharmacy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Health Sciences Center. Partners also met with key clinical staff and faculty, and finalized their year-one work plan.

The next series of exchanges is slated for fall, when six Zambian pharmacists will participate in a "training of trainers" course in Milwaukee prior to initiating training for others in Zambia with the help of CIH experts.