

**THE INVOLVEMENT OF PRIVATE PHARMACIES IN THE  
NATIONAL ART PROGRAM IN KISUMU TOWN**

**BY**

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## ABSTRACT

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection is currently ranked as the number two killer disease after malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. Most governments in this region started providing antiretroviral treatment in 2005. To complement the effort of government in the provision of free ART to all infected patients in sub-Saharan Africa, the private sector also provides ARVs to eligible patients who are registered in private clinics. This study was undertaken to determine the extent of availability of ARVs and adherence of good ARV dispensing practices, uptake of ART in private pharmacies and factors affecting adherence among patients purchasing ARVs in private pharmacies. The study adopted descriptive cross sectional survey research design to collect primary data from respondents using questionnaire. The target population in this study was Patients who had confirmed HIV diagnosis and purchase ARVs from private pharmacies in Kisumu town. In this study included all members who purchased antiretroviral on survey days. This study aimed at making use of both qualitative and quantitative techniques in collecting data. The key tools used to collect data were questionnaire and Interview guide. The organized data entry was undertaken using descriptive statistics by help of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and exported to STATA, version 11(StatCorp,college station, Texas). Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and was described using frequencies, percentages pie charts and tables. The key findings were that there was limited availability of ARVs and most pharmacies did not adhere to good dispensing practices in Kisumu town. Factors that enhanced uptake of ART were insurance cover and quality of service and side effects and forgetting to take pills due to hurry were factors that affected adherence among patients attending private pharmacies. The study concludes limited stocks of ARVs and poor adherence of good dispensing practices influence of delivery of ART in private pharmacies. Key Recommendations drawn were to train private pharmacist and further recommends that a national survey should be carried out to ascertain involvement of private pharmacies in national ART program.