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Nursing Innovation in Primary Health Care



Outline

- Introduction
- Practice environment
- Growing disease burden in South Africa
- Economic dynamics
- PHC innovative practices
- Conclusion



Introduction

Innovative ideas are needed to ensure achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

The aim of this presentation is to:

- Increase awareness of the importance and value of innovations in nursing.
- To provide an improved understanding of the nurses' contribution to health care through innovation
- To increase understanding of the importance of creating environments that inspire innovation and help shape practice in new and improved ways.



Cont...

- In 2011, in line with a long healthy life for all South Africans, the Minister of Health signed a negotiated service agreement with four components
 - ✓ Increasing life expectancy
 - ✓ Decreasing child and maternal mortality
 - ✓ Combating HIV and Aids and decreasing the burden of disease from tuberculosis
 - ✓ Strengthening health care system effectiveness



Cont...

- The primary focus was to alleviate hospital burden
- Strengthening preventive and promotive health
- Primary health care reengineering was initiated to strengthen health system effectiveness
- This paper will highlight some of the PHC best practices that are currently being practiced in South Africa



Nurses within the health sector

- Nurses provide up to 80% of primary health care in most health systems across the world
- Therefore well positioned to provide the most needed innovative solutions to many global health challenges



Practice environment

- Health systems vary depending on the set up and economic status of countries e.g developing and developed countries.
- Developed countries are better resourced
 - Good health Financing
 - Better health systems in place
- Developing countries
 - Poor health financing systems
 - Constrained resources
 - Task shifting due to palpable staff shortages
 - Inequalities

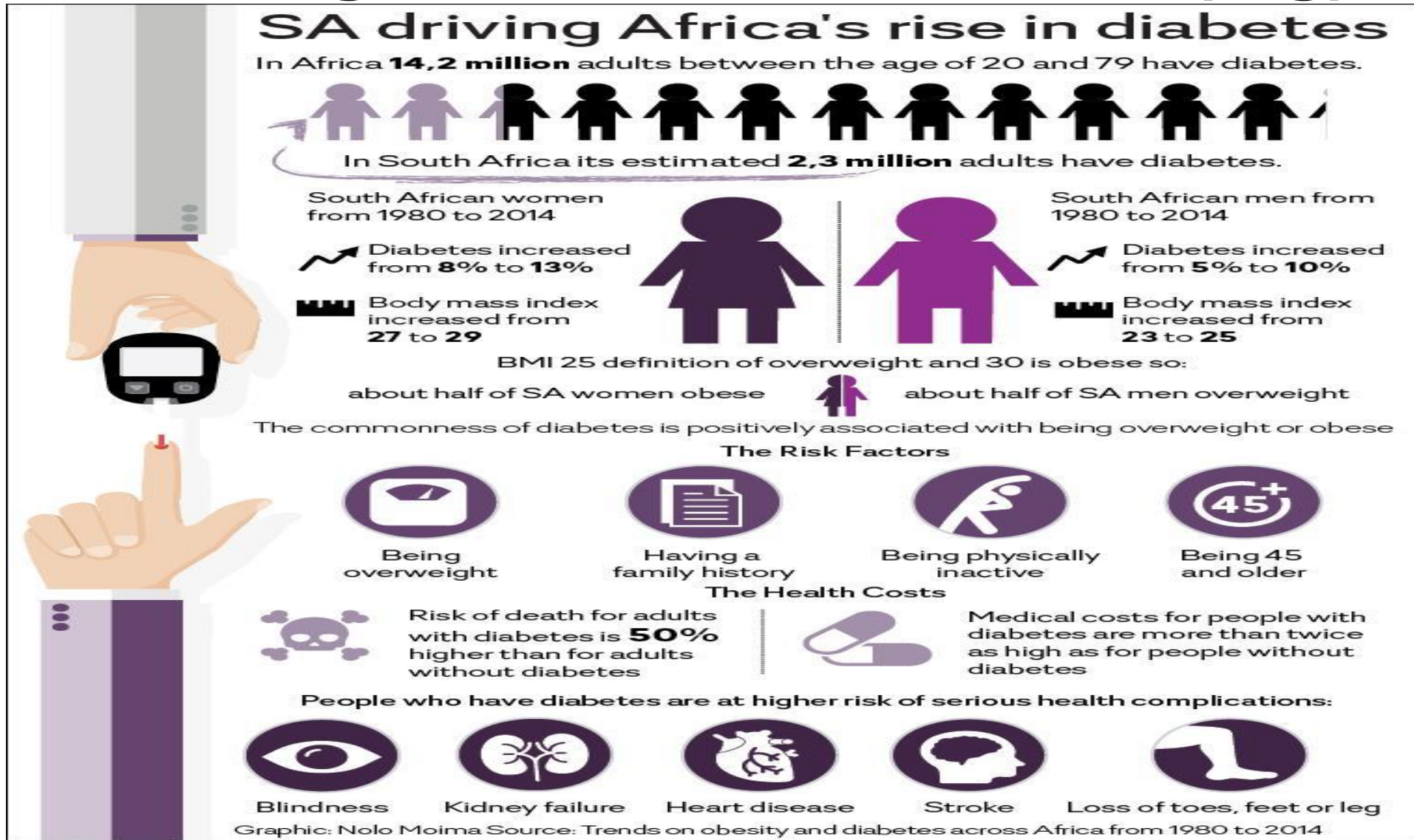


Nurses impact

- Nurses globally have a major role to play in making an impact on the following areas,
 - ✓ Health promotion
 - ✓ Disease prevention
 - ✓ Health care facility waiting time management
 - ✓ Access to medication
 - ✓ Effective referral systems
 - ✓ Integration of indigenous knowledge to health care



Growing disease burden NCD (e.g)





Long queues in hospitals



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Long queues in a clinic



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PHC innovative practices

- Ward based outreach teams
- Exercise (sports and parks)
- Nurse led private clinics
- Promotion of Indigenous methods of care



Ward Based Primary health care outreach teams (WBPHCOT) strategy

- **WBPHCOT** is an organized team approach used for primary health care to enhance access to primary health care services
- The system was also used in Spain, Cuba and Brazil
- In certain provinces it is viewed as Community oriented primary health care (COPC).
- South Africa adopted the Brazil model
- The Cuban model is also interfaced through Mandela - Fidel Castro initiative (scaling training of medical students)

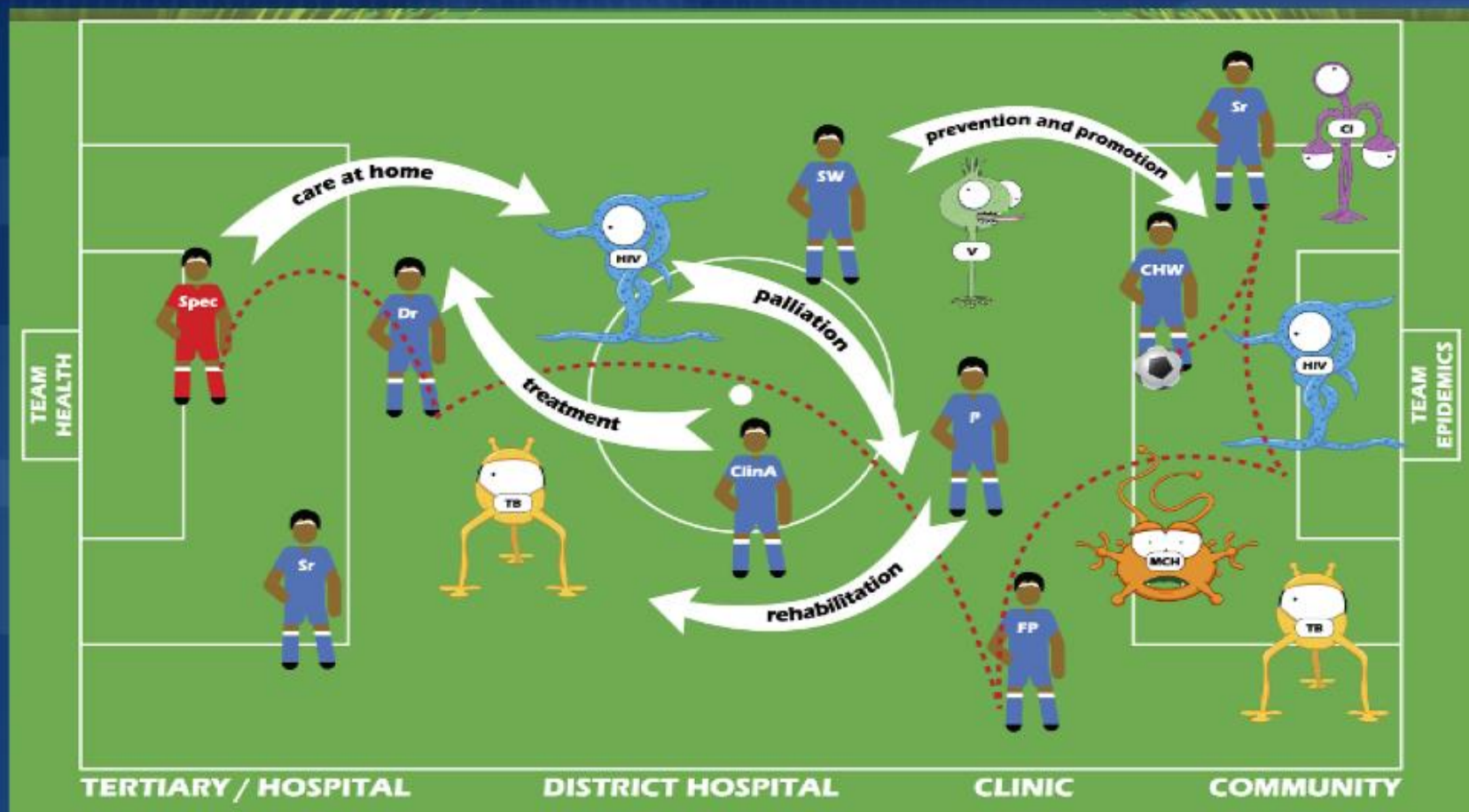


WBPHCOT

- Teams of Health professionals are formed per designated area
- Houses in a village/township or municipality are divided into wards
- Assigned to a ward is an ideal team composed of:
 - Medical doctor
 - Professional Nurse
 - Physiotherapist
 - Community Health Workers (CHW)
 - Clinic committee (support structure and link)
- CHW are used to cover the most needed human resource gap
- Nurses work closely with CHW as their supervisors, trainers as well as to mentor and coach them



Ward Based Model



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Use of technology

- The WBOT use technology such as e-health and cellphone apps that assist them to record history and diagnosis of clients
- The system link the health care user to the health care professional
- The technology enables all members of the team to access information that assist them to plan care better
- Communication between members of the team is enhanced



Nurse-owned Clinic

- Nurse driven entrepreneurial initiatives where nurses start their own private clinics with the aim of generating profit while increasing access to healthcare to needy communities (eg. Unjani clinics)
- Seed funding support made available
- Government provides essential support for services such as EPI & family planning medication
- Charges minimal fees in comparison to main stream private healthcare providers



Initiatives to combat NCDs

- The use of exercise parks (mushrooming in villages and townships).
- The exercise clubs (e.g. The aged soccer teams).
- Traditional dances and competitions with active involvement of community nurses.



Exercise: health promotion activity



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Outdoor gym



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Outdoor gym



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Indigenous methods

- Back to basics- use of indigenous food to promote health
- Promotion of herbal gardens
- Increased use of herbal remedies (Moringa – a tree of life).
- Training of traditional health practitioners in aseptic technique (washing of hands, use of razor blades, use of disinfectants etc)



Considerations

Enabling Factors	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Embracing innovation by Nurses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Media continuously tarnishes nursing image
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage integration of indigenous knowledge systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low confidence on the profession by community
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investment that includes technology	



Conclusion

- A supportive climate needs to be created by Countries/Organizations to encourage creativity and innovation activities.
- It is up us as nurses to embrace the idea of change through innovation and to make a concerted effort to become involved
- Our slogan should be “Nothing about us without us”



- **Gracias**
 - **Merci beaucoup**
 - **Obrigado**
 - **Baie dankie**
 - **Ndza nkhansa swinene**
- **Thank you very much**



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