Policy Briefing:

Promoting Clinical Trial Informativeness in Africa

Overview:

This policy briefing synthesizes key insights from the Cameroon Townhall for Healthcare Professionals meeting held on December 16, 2023, focusing on the theme "Promoting Clinical Trial Informativeness in Africa: The Role of DAC-Africa."

Context:

The 90th edition of the Cameroon Town Hall celebrated the year's achievements in healthcare discussions and policies. Participant reflections highlighted the impact of these sessions on healthcare practices.

Key Issues:

1. **Clinical Trial Informativeness:** Promote more informative clinical trials in Africa.
2. **Challenges of Uninformative Trials:** Many trials, particularly in Africa, fail to yield results that significantly impact patient care or policy formulation.
3. **Role of DAC-Africa:** A Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded three-year pilot program aimed to enhance the quality and informativeness of clinical trials in Africa, focusing on Design, Analyze, and Communicate, to improve clinical trial quality, building infrastructure and increasing investments, supported by Africa CDC. https://dac-trials.tghn.org/

Discussion Highlights:

- Urgency in improving clinical trial informativeness in Africa.
- The role of ethical and effective research practices in enhancing trial quality.
- Prospects for growth in clinical research and the importance of collaborative efforts.

Recommendations:

- **Raising Awareness:** Enhance understanding of the importance of clinical trial informativeness among researchers and healthcare professionals.
- **Protocol Review:** Encourage Principal Investigators to submit protocols to DAC-Africa for review and optimize their protocol design.

- **Knowledge Dissemination:** Share insights from this session with broader healthcare communities to foster information on the services of DAC-Africa.

Next Steps: Follow-up meeting scheduled for January 13, 2024, with details to be confirmed.

Conclusion: The session underscored the critical need for more informative clinical trials in Africa to improve health outcomes. Stakeholder engagement and concerted efforts in initiatives like DAC-Africa are essential to achieving this goal.

Prepared by the Co-Moderators, Cameroon Townhall for Healthcare Professionals, from the session of December 16, 2023. Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xeMTEA0_E4Q