

RVTH

Royal Victoria Teaching Hospital

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Health Education by RVTH

As part of its mission to improve the health of all Gambians, the Royal Victoria Teaching Hospital Health Education Team has been involved in major Health Education activities.

These activities began with the installation of TVs and video players in the waiting areas at the RVTH Accident and Emergency Department and Polyclinic. Health Education programmes are played on these facilities while patients are waiting to be seen by medical personnel. RVTH believes that this approach can reinforce simple public health messages in a non-intrusive manner.

RVTH now also produces a range of patient information leaflets. Aside from a Welcome leaflet, providing general information on RVTH, leaflets have been produced dealing with Malaria, Immunisation, Breastfeeding, Diabetes and Hypertension (high blood pressure). RVTH sees these leaflets as a vital part of its Health Education function, and believes that, through these leaflets, it can give the benefit of its medical expertise even to those who do not visit the hospital.

In order to target children, the Health Education Team visited 11 schools in the Banjul Area in October 2004 . This involved giving a presentation on Health issues and distributing copies of the RVTH Malaria patient information leaflet to pupils. This programme has proved a great success and, if funding could be secured, RVTH would like to expand it to other schools in the Greater Banjul area.

Sister Augusta Mendy, the RVTH Acting Principal Nursing Officer, has spearheaded these initiatives. She commented "RVTH places a high importance on disease prevention, not just on medical care. We believe that Health Education is a vital part of our role as the country's only Teaching Hospital."