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BACKGROUND

Loss to follow-up (LTFU) in individuals undergoing cervical cancer treatment is a major challenge. We describe development of a customized and tailored mHealth intervention for reducing LTFU among patients undergoing cervical cancer treatment at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH).

- METHODS
- Interviewed all health care providers (HCPs)
 - Assessed challenges/facilitators of LTFU
 - Developed an appropriate mHealth intervention to re-engage patients in care.
 - Transcripts were derived, reviewed and coded to generate themes and categories using inductive content analytic approach.
 - Four medical experts developed relevant SMS content, which was incorporated into an app.

RESULTS

The main challenge to re-engagement was absence a reminder mechanism between HCPs and patients.

HCPs preferred text and or audio messaging to improve responsiveness to LTFUs.

Key messaging content included:

- The importance of follow-ups
- Visit date
- Clinic and recipient customization.

SMS content was uploaded onto the *cc-follow-up* app platform and customized according to preferred language, day, frequency and time of delivery.

CONCLUSION

Tailoring mHealth messaging interventions could be an important strategy to reduce LTFU. Our intervention’s feasibility and acceptability needs to be evaluated.

11:26 32%

Add Participant

Age Bracket

☐ 18 - 25 ☐ 26 - 35

☐ 36-45 ☐ 46 - 60

Communication Choice

☐ IVR ☐ SMS

Communication Language Choice

☐ English ☐ Lunyakole

Schedule Time

Schedule Time


Scheduled Days

Add first and last name

First Name: eg J...

Last Name: eg. M...

Add phone number

 +256

Add Participant Group

Group

Save

Cancel

- DISCUSSION
- Considering SMS text message as an intervention with components and medium of delivery that would be educative, increase care uptake and engagement, text messages bear an advantage of allowing app developers and HCPs to incorporate unique customisation features including language, time and frequency preference; as well as scheduling according to the patient’s review visit dates.
 - These features in one way or another increase care uptake and engagement, and address the educative aspect as they emphasise the relevance of patient reviews

