

PDF - ALLOCATION OF FUNDS ACROSS EXPENDITURE HEADS IN THE NIGERIAN PUBLIC TEACHING HOSPITALS (A CASE STUDY OF LAGOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, LAGOS) - researchcub.info Surulere, Lagos State. The hospital was established in 1962 and is affiliated with the University of Lagos, College of Medicine.

LUTH employs thousands of workers and they range from the highly specialized consultant doctors to cleaners, and all work in unity to ensure that the patient has a memorable experience during their treatment and rehabilitation in the hospital. But Alas! The experience, while always memorable, isn't always savory and thus to the common man, the hospital is a recipient of mixed reviews. Some believe that LUTH is the pinnacle of Nigerian medical science and thus is Nigeria's last beacon of hope to the ailing and to the deathly ill. Well, that belief isn't entirely unfounded as LUTH currently boasts, by a wide margin, of the highest amount of specialist doctors in any Nigerian hospital and thus patients are guaranteed knowledgeable professionals in their search for resolution of specific illnesses. Others believe LUTH to be the devil's own receptacle, hence the saying; "You only go to LUTH for treatment when you are ready to die". To the average observer of the Accident and Emergency department of LUTH, which is often the main point of entry into the hospital, there appears to be an awful amount of death going on as every other half-hour, you see a corpse getting wheeled out and all you see is either the bustle of the relatives of those hanging on to life by a thread or the sorrow of relatives who have just lost a loved one. The truth about any hospital is that not all the patients that come in are going to leave alive and what every hospital does is to maximize the chances of survival of their patient.

At LUTH, there's the caste system of seniority with each level being firmly under the next; Consultant, Senior Registrar, Junior Registrar, House Officer, Medical Student. Doctors go on rounds (in groups) everyday, checking up on each patient that has been placed in care of their units but due to the sheer amount of patients remitted to each unit, these doctors are unable to spend more than just a few minutes at each patient's bedside. All they check for are the basics; stability of the patient, improvements or new development and then they make their comments in case notes. The Consultant Ward rounds are worse as most Consultants are more interested in discussing the patients and 'tackling' the knowledge of the junior doctors, as opposed to actually checking up on the patient. So what a Consultant round often yields is just a confirmation of the observation of resident doctors and nothing more. At night, there often are doctors from each unit 'on call' in each ward but in reality, only a House Officer is present and this person's sole job is to disturb his superior only when the patient's case has gotten out of hand and often at death.

LUTH is the largest Teaching Hospital in Nigeria with 761 beds and with the College of Medicine of the University of Lagos in the training of hundreds of Medical, Dental, Pharmacy and other Science Students. The hospital has produced thousands of Nurses, Laboratory Technologists, Health Records Officers and Para-Medical Cadres.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

TEACHING HOSPITAL: A teaching hospital is a hospital or medical center that provides clinical education and training to future and current health professionals. Teaching hospitals are often affiliated with medical schools and work closely with medical students throughout their period of matriculation, and especially during their clerkship (internship) years.

FUND ALLOCATION: Sum of money set aside and earmarked for a specified purpose

ALLOCATION: The action or process of allocating or sharing out something.

EXPENDITURE: Payment of cash equivalent for good or services or a charge against available funds in settlement of an obligation as evidenced by an invoice, receipt, voucher or other such document.

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