

4.2 African region

Nigeria: Digital health and pharmacy education in a Nigerian university

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Summary

Digital health (DH) has revolutionised healthcare delivery, impacting both healthcare providers and patients. It covers a wide area of technologies, such as wearable devices, telehealth, e-health, m-health and health telematics. DH application areas include treatment adherence, point-of-care diagnostics, clinical decision making and medication tracking and safety. For the pharmacist to be adequately equipped for optimal patient care, appropriate DH education is a must. Curricula for pharmacy education of the Nigerian university in this case study do not have a course titled “Digital health”. Nonetheless, students are taught aspects of DH under other courses throughout their training. With the aid of smartphones and mobile applications, students implement DH services. A pharmacist trained in this university is currently developing a mobile health app useful in establishing antimicrobial stewardship programmes in hospitals. However, rapid development of DH calls for review and restructuring of pharmacy education curricular to include DH as a course.