



October 17, 2018

Thank you to Ralueke Ekezie, Alice Tsao, and Elena Nikoliadou for their contribution to our October 11, 2018 webinar about “Global Issues in Medication Management: Implications for Home Health Nurses.” Primarily presented by Diana Mager, DNP, RN-BC at Fairfield University in Connecticut, USA, with assistance by Mary Narayan, MSN, RN, CNS. Ralueke, Alice and Elena provided examples about the medication issues in their countries.

Ralueke Ekezie, RN, RON, is the owner and CEO of Blue Torch Home Care in Nigeria, which is the first registered home health agency in Nigeria. The agency provides care to older patients, patients with chronic illnesses, patients with multiple types of medical diagnoses and patients in need of palliative care services. In addition to nurses, the agency’s professionals include physical therapists, dietitians, and others. Their mission is to serve the entire population, including the marginalized and people living in rural areas. One of their projects has been to distribute nets treated with long-lasting insecticides.

Alice Tso, DBA, MHA, BA, RN, RM, is the owner of Onward Home Care in Hong Kong. She has also been involved in promoting and developing a nursing workforce to meet the needs of today’s patients. Alice described that a frequent problem that home care patients have with their medications is confusion about drugs and doses. Her agency is working with local pharmacists to promote medication safety with unit packaging.

Elena Nikolaidou, is a community health nurse in Cyprus, where she serves as a manager within a home health nursing services agency. Elena reports that medication errors are concerning among the patients her agency services, related to the patients being elderly and having care givers who do not speak the same language as the patients. Home health nurses are increasingly spending more time in helping their patients manage their medications to prevent medication errors.

The IHCNO and Dr. Diana Mager, main webinar presenter, truly thank these home healthcare nurses from around the world for contributing to the depth of our webinar on the issues nurses face in trying to keep their home health patients from medication problems.

Very truly yours,

Barbara Piskor, MPH, RN, NEA-BC
President of the IHCNO