

VISITING A MEDICAL FACILITY, IN THE FACE OF COVID 19 PANDEMIC. THE MYTHS AND REALITIES OF OUR TIME.

Today in Nigeria, as in many parts of the world, people now stay at home to treat themselves of several medical health conditions rather than go the health care facilities; for the fear of not been branded rightly or wrongly as a COVID 19 patient. An internet based survey assessment conducted using survey monkey reveals that 93% of respondents clearly prefer to treat themselves at how, even when they do not have the correct knowledge of their health challenges not to talk more of the treatment or management remedy.

60 % of respondents allude this to the fact that, most common ailments such as malaria and typhoid do present similar symptoms as COVID 19. In did, there are a range of the symptoms such as high temperature, headache, feverish condition, difficulty in breathing, nasal congestion that are common to both the COVID 19 and malaria in particular. Given the endemic state of malaria in Nigeria, with the coming of the raining season it becomes obvious that many more Nigerians will be sick of malaria infestation. Then the question that needs to be answered is: will it not become a double tragedy should most Nigerian stay back at home to treat themselves of symptoms of malaria, will they not likely be treating themselves of COVID 19 while assuming its malaria?

The challenge here is that, medical doctors have been directed to assume all cases in the hospitals, at this period as a COVID 19 suspect while administering healthcare services to clients in every facility. This in the eyes of the common person, does imply that you will be subjected to 14 days quarantine or better still isolation in order to be treated for such common ailments as malaria.

However, on the other hand the Coordinator of the PTF on COVID 19, has issued a call, directing Nigerians to visit the hospital if they feel sick while equally calling on hospital facilities to ensure prompt response to all clients and not to ignore any for the fear of not treating a COVID 19 patient.

Despite this call, many people are still scared of accessing medical treatment during this Corona virus (Covid-19) pandemic. It is therefore important at this time, that the government continuously create the needed awareness through the media and other medium on the importance of visiting the medical facilities for treatment rather than result to presumptive treatment. This is with a view that, Nigerians do not unknowingly worsen the present situation all in the bite of avoiding COVID 19.

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