The Health Ministry has worked underway. Through the World Asthma Day the concept of the respiratory clinics and the use of spaces, education materials and the deliverance of asthma action plans to individual patient have been rolled out. Long term plans will include monitoring tools such as peak flow meters being provided to patients to assist in self monitoring of their asthma status.

Apart from this the Health Ministry launched the TB project earlier this year in conjunction with the Global Fund which is part of the Practical Approach to Lung Diseases project. This project is directed towards patients with lung diseases under which asthma also fall. There have been pilot respiratory clinics being setup around Fiji at the moment by PAL project. The respiratory clinics will be fully equipped to assess patients with the different types of lungs disease and to start preventative asthma therapy.

The Health Ministry has already commenced training its staff (including doctors and nurses) to manage severe asthma in the 3 major divisional hospitals (first training 24th April 2014) using updated guidelines. This is being followed by district hospitals initially and then to the other health centers and the sub - divisional hospitals.

**HEALTH: Rheumatic Heart Disease**

Rheumatic heart disease (RHD) is the most common acquired heart disease in children in many countries of the world, especially in developing countries with Fiji being no exception. Almost 15 million cases projected around the globe with 200,000 deaths annually. The prevalence of RHD in Fiji amounts to 8.4 per 1000 with 3.5% of primary aged children. This disease is most commonly found in the 4-9 year age group. The Health Ministry welcomes rotary club of Sovu’s donation of $200,000 towards the advocacy and dissemination of information in the prevention of the silent killer disease.

RHD is a chronic heart condition caused by rheumatic fever that can be prevented and controlled. Rheumatic fever is caused by a preceding Group A Streptococcal (GAS) infection. Treating streptococcal throat infection with antibiotics can prevent rheumatic fever. Moreover, regular antibiotics (usually monthly injections) can prevent patients with rheumatic fever from contracting further streptococcal infections and cause progression of valve damage.

Acute rheumatic fever primarily affects the heart, joints and central nervous system. The major importance of acute rheumatic fever is its ability to cause fibrosis of heart valves, leading to crippling damage. Treating streptococcal throat infection with antibiotics can prevent rheumatic fever. Moreover, regular antibiotics (usually monthly injections) can prevent patients with rheumatic fever from contracting further streptococcal infections and cause progression of valve damage.

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The Health Ministry has taken a proactive approach and stepped up early intervention in primary care.

Asthma education is providing access to food vouches, iron and folate supplementation and deworming periodically. Child nutrition includes Iron and Vitamin Supplementation and deworming and vitamin supplementation for undernourished children.

A new program has been designed in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF and Vodafone Foundation to the challenged child concept with the objective of risk assessment and identification is determined through school health screenings. The program is all set to go ahead.

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Apart from this, updates were provided by nurses in the different sub divisions from central division, on the diabetes centers initially and then to the other health centers and the sub - divisional hospitals.

**Nurses Trained In Foot Care**

The Health Ministry’s Diabetes Fiji organized a one day seminar on nurses in foot care. Through this seminar 24 nurses graduated from the central division.

**TRIAGE Nursing**

Nurses serving at various General Outpatient departments in various health facilities in the country including hospitals and health centers are responsible for delivering triage nursing.

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