TRANSCRIPT FOR “SEEKING MEDICAL CARE"

<https://vimeo.com/95408709>

**Hello, my name is Naome. Welcome to this great mom’s discussion. I know every mom feels bad when her child is sick and wants to know what to do.**

**Parents take their children to the health facility because they trust that the health workers are knowledgeable.**

**They take their children to the health facility because they trust the health workers will know how to treat their illness.**

**Some parents do not take their children to the health facility because of poverty, long distance from the facility, and the poor roads.**

**Some do not take their children to the health facility because they have little faith in the health workers’ ability to treat their children. They often prefer to use local herbs.**

**Some believe their children are sick due to non-medical causes. Personally, when my child gets sick, I prefer taking my child to the health facility to get examined, to diagnose the illness, and receive medical treatment rather than using herbs.**

**When the health worker examines my child I am confident that my child will get better. Sometimes people in the community tell us that the problem is not medical but rather related to the spirits. I do not believe in this. One day my child was sick and an older woman told me that it was intestinal worms. She told me to kill a snake and tie it around the waist of the baby. I found a snake on the road, killed it, and tied it around my baby’s waist. The baby cried all night! I took it to the health facility and they diagnosed her with malaria.**

**Some parents believe that health workers will give their child additional illnesses. Others have so many young children that they cannot leave the others to take one to the health facility. They have no one to take care of the other children when they are away.**

**For some parents it is just ignorance. Personally, I know that taking my sick child to the health facility is the most important action to take when the child is sick.**

**Some parents think that the child has been bewitched. So they don’t take them to the health facility. Other times it is simply because they are unaware of the seriousness. When they believe that it is a medical condition, they do take the child to the health facility.**

**It is largely due to lack of awareness. Some parents prefer to go to the garden rather than taking the child to the health center. They put off taking the child until the child’s condition worsens. Some mothers have disputes with their spouses and, as a result, there is no support for taking the children to the health facility.**

**Many parents think that their children have been bewitched, so they go to traditional healers. The healers waste their time and the child is seriously ill by the time they take him to the health facility. The delay can kill the baby.**

**They are busy searching for herbs that they believe will cure their children. Others are drunkards so they do not really care about their children. Some men do take the children to the health facility because they know that this is where they can seek treatment.**

**One of the reasons is poverty. One may not have transport to the distant health facility. The child needs food and yet the mother doesn’t have any money. She may not have clothes for the child and feels she cannot take the child to the health facility in tattered clothes or naked.**

**They believe their children are suffering from genetic ailments. They believe their children are suffering from traditional non-medical diseases. So a mother takes the child to a traditional healer who makes incisions or reaches down the child’s throat with her fingers to remove what is affecting the child. Others take the child to the health facility because they have confidence in the ability of the health workers.**

**When a child is sick you are not supposed to stay with the child at home because it needs help. Some do not take their children to the health facility because they don’t have money. All public health facilities are supposed to be free of charge but you may need money to pay for part of the prescribed medicines.**

**It is largely due to poverty. Especially if a child is transferred to the hospital, you need money for transport and buying medicines. The child may not have clothes to wear so the mother will just stay home in despair seeing no options.**

**Some parents do no take their children to the health facility because they are ashamed of themselves due to the poor health state of their child and the way they are dressed.**

**We all agree that a great mother is sad when a child is ill and she struggles to make a decision about when to take the child to the health facility. Let us hear from the health worker on when to take the child to the health facility.**

**When should we bring a sick child to the health facility? Which children should we not leave home when they are sick? When a child is coughing and struggling to breathe, or has prolonged diarrhea because this dehydrates the child. Also you should go if the child has diarrhea with blood or when a child is lethargic. Other signs that a child should be taken to the health facility are when a child has a fever and loses her appetite or has delayed development.**

**When a mother has a sick child it worries her. However, when she takes the child to the health facility she often becomes hopeful that the child will recover. Let us listen to how other parents feel when they have taken their children to the health facility.**

**When I reach the health facility my heart feels at peace because my child is examined and given the correct medication.**

**When you arrive at the health facility with a sick child, you are relieved and believe that your child is going to be cured.**

**When I reach the health facility I start to feel hopeful. When I look at the health worker examining my child, I know that she will do all it takes to help me save my child and I feel good.**

**When I take my child to the health facility and she is treated and cured I feel so happy.**

**The moment my sick child gets into the hands of a health worker I put all my trust into this health worker because he knows best what is ailing the child. At the end of the day I feel happy.**

**When my grandchild is sick and taken to the hospital I feel bad because it is sick, but eventually I feel happy that she is in the hands of a health worker.**

**When I take my grandchild to the health facility my heart is filled with joy because I know the child is going to be saved.**

**When I take my child to the health facility the health worker will examine my child and give the right treatment.**

**You leave home worried, but when you reach the health facility and your child is examined by the health worker you become hopeful that your child will be fine.**

**When the health worker examines my child and tells me what the child is suffering from I feel encouraged. Even if the child dies I remain strong because I know they did their best.**

**When the health workers examine my child and provide the right treatment I feel happy.**

**I feel happy when I take my child to the facility because I know the child will receive the correct treatment.**

**Being a great mother is challenging but well worth the effort. Thank you for being great parents. If your children are not old enough to thank you, I will do it for them. Thank you for being good parents, taking care of your children, and helping them achieve their hopes and dreams.**