

Review of: "The Plight of Rare Diseases in Southern Africa: Health and Social Services Policy Recommendations"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is a very well written article. I found it informative and useful. The authors may find an article I authored useful to support their statements on the paucity of trusted information on rare diseases (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21678707.2019.1684260>). Cumulatively, the prevalence of rare diseases is comparable to that of diabetes. Yet, the number of publications on rare diseases in the medical literature is only 0.2% compared with >3% for diabetes.

I request the authors to include the need for supportive care for patients in this article. This may have been under the general category of social services policy. If so, I suggest they provide more information on their proposal. If not, I recommend that they add it.

The other main issue that I found missing in this article is the need for support for the caregivers of patients with rare diseases. Often, their burden is overlooked. They not only have to care for the patient, they have to earn a living, pay the bills, feed the family, etc. I strongly recommend that the authors add a section on that.

It was truly a pleasure reading this article.