



PRESS STATEMENT

31 July 2019

Public Misconception about Klebsiella outbreak at Goroka Hospital

PNGIMR refutes allegations appearing on social media for being responsible for current outbreak of Klebsiella at Goroka Provincial Hospital. These claims have no substance, as the IMR is mandated to conduct research into health problems affecting our people and to find ways to alleviate these diseases/conditions.

The IMR was invited by EHPHA and Goroka Hospital management to assist in identifying potential causes of infections that doctors and nurses at the nursery had suspected of causing sepsis among babies since February 2019. Senior Management, including the Director, Curative Health Services at the Goroka Provincial Hospital gave permission for PNGIMR to collect swabs from inanimate objects (beds, working benches, and other regularly used equipment such as suction tubes, weighing scales, baby cots, etc) in the SCN in an attempt to identify possible sources of infection

Our laboratory confirmed Klebsiella spp and other Gram negative bacteria as the main bacteria/germs from these inanimate objects.

The results and recommendations were presented to the hospital management including the Director, Curative Health Services and hospital staff in an open forum for their deliberation and for decisions to be made.

PNGIMR assisted in an emergency situation and will continue to assist EHPHA and Goroka Hospital to help save lives and prevent illnesses. It is unfortunate that these gestures are deliberately misconstrued to mislead the public and taint the good name of IMR.