

## **INVESTIGATING FACTORS INFLUENCING INTERMITTENT PREVENTIVE TREATMENT (IPT) ADHERENCE AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN ATTENDING ANTENATAL CARE VISITS AT SELECTED HEALTH FACILITIES IN SEKONDI- TAKORADI, GHANA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The intermittent treatment of malaria with sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine (IPTp-SP) is the use of an anti-malarial drug given in treatment doses at predefined intervals to clear a presumed burden of parasites, regardless of the absence of symptoms of malaria. To achieve immunity against malaria infection, pregnant women must adhere fully to IPTp-SP, taking all required doses until delivery. Despite the proven efficacy of IPTp-SP and its adoption as a national policy in over 35 sub-Saharan African countries including Ghana, its uptake remains low, falling short of the projected 80% coverage by WHO. The study aims to ascertain the demographic factors, healthcare system factors and side effect factors of SP administration associated with IPTp-SP adherence among pregnant women who attended selected health facilities in the Sekondi-Takoradi Municipality in the Western Region of Ghana. The analysis indicates that pregnant women above 30 years of age are more likely to take lower (below 3) doses of SP before delivery with a significant value. Again, unemployed pregnant women were less likely to take lower (below 3) doses of SP with a significant value. Therefore, demographic factors such as age and employment status are significant factors influencing adherence to IPTp-SP among pregnant women in Ghana. Similarly, side effect factors were found to significantly influence adherence to IPTp-SP among pregnant women in Ghana.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Sulphadoxine-Pyrimethamine, Pregnant Women, Health Facilities, Doses, Sekondi-Takoradi*

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