

A RAPID APPRAISAL OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PREVENTION OF MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV SERVICES ARE EFFECTIVELY PROVIDED IN THE EKURHULENI HEALTH DISTRICT, GAUTENG PROVINCE.

Vermeulen N¹

Problem statement

In Ekurhuleni, like in many parts of South Africa, a large number of women attending Public clinics for antenatal services, test positive for HIV. While a large proportion of mothers seemingly receive Voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) for HIV, many mothers and their babies, for a variety of reasons, do not seem to receive Nevirapine prophylaxis at the time of delivery of baby or as the protocol stipulates.

Aim

To determine the extent to which PMTCT services are effectively provided in Ekurhuleni Health District (EHD) public clinics during the period January to March 2007.

Methodology

Retrospective review of health records pertaining to mothers attending PMTCT services in Antenatal clinics in EHD, and health records of babies born to HIV positive mothers to determine the extent to which they received PMTCT services in 72 public Primary Health care clinics for the period January to March 2007. The reasons for deficiencies in the provision of PMTCT were not investigated. This was only a quantitative analysis.

Results

Retrospective review of health records pertaining to mothers attending PMTCT services

- A total of 12 189 mothers attending ANC services received HIV counselling.
- Of those mothers attending ANC services, a total of 10 752 (88%) mothers were tested for HIV status.
- Of those mothers tested for HIV, a total of 3 369 (31%) were diagnosed HIV positive.
- Of those mothers positively diagnosed with HIV, a total of 2 185 (65%) received Nevirapine.
- A total of 2 330 (69%) babies born to HIV positive mothers, received Nevirapine.
- While 2 330 babies received Nevirapine, only 904 were tested for HIV.

Conclusion

Many HIV positive mothers do not receive Nevirapine prophylaxis at or around the time of delivery, and similarly, a large proportion of babies born to HIV positive mothers do not receive Nevirapine prophylaxis. Furthermore, follow-up confirmatory tests on babies born to HIV positive mothers are conducted erratically. All the above factors combine to reduce the number of opportunities for the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission.

1. Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality