

TOWARDS IMPROVEMENTS IN TB SERVICE DELIVERY: THE USE OF THE DRAT TOOL IN NYANDENI, EASTERN CAPE

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Background:

The implementation of the DOTS strategy in Nyandeni Local Service Area has not achieved the desired results. To investigate this and address problems identified, the TB TASC 11 project conducted a review of the programme in September 2005 using the District Rapid assessment Tool (DRAT)

Methods:

The review took place in 15 facilities in each of the 3 sub- Local Service Areas (LSA`s), selected because of their relative high case load. Using the Direct Rapid Appraisal TB tool (DRAT) eleven key elements of the NTCP were assessed and scored according to the extent of their correct implementation. On the basis of their scores each clinic was allocated specific actions to improve on their initial performance. The facilities have been regularly supported and mentored through quarterly supervisory visits to help ensure that these improvements take place.

Results:

The cure rate in Nyandeni on baseline assessment was 34.5% (quarter 2 of 2005). A dramatic improvement to 80% in quarter 1 of 2006 has been demonstrated. The presentation will share the experiences of Nyandeni and detail the improvements that have collectively resulted in this improved cure rate.