

HST Bulletin



CATEGORIES

[Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles](#)

[Recent News](#)

[Training and Resources](#)

[Publications and Reports](#)

[Conferences and Events](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

The path to longer and healthier lives for all Africans by 2030: the Lancet Commission on the future of health in sub-Saharan Africa

The Lancet | Published: 13 September 2017.

Irene Akua Agyepong, Nelson Sewankambo, Agnes Binagwaho, Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Tumani Corrah, Alex Ezech, Abebaw Fekadu, Nduku Kilonzo

Sub-Saharan Africa's health challenges are numerous and wide-ranging. Most sub-Saharan countries face a double burden of traditional, persisting health challenges, such as infectious diseases, malnutrition, and child and maternal mortality, and emerging challenges from an increasing prevalence of chronic conditions, mental health disorders, injuries, and health problems related to climate change and environmental degradation. Although there has been real progress on many health indicators, life expectancy and most population health indicators remain behind most low-income and middle-income countries in other parts of the world.

Barriers and enablers for the development and implementation of allied health clinical practice guidelines in South African primary healthcare settings: a qualitative study

BioMed Central | Published: 15 September 2017.

JM Dizon, K Grimmer, Q Louw, S Machingaidze, H Parker, H Pillen

The South African allied health (AH) primary healthcare (PHC) workforce is challenged with the complex rehabilitation needs of escalating patient numbers. The application of evidence-based care using clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) is one way to make efficient and effective use of resources. Although CPGs are common for AH in high-income countries, there is limited understanding of how to do this in low- to middle-income countries. This paper describes barriers and enablers for AH CPG uptake in South African PHC.

Uptake of health services among truck drivers in South Africa: analysis of routine data from nine roadside wellness centres

BioMed Central | Published: 13 September 2017.

Samanta Tresha Lalla-Edward, Sydney Ncube, Paul Matthew, Catherine A Hankins, WD Francois Venter,

Gabriela B Gomez

Long-distance truck drivers are occupationally susceptible to poor health outcomes. Their patterns of healthcare utilisation and the suitability of healthcare services available to them are not well documented. We report on truck driver healthcare utilisation across South Africa and characterise the client population of the clinics serving them for future service development.

Mental health leadership and patient access to care: a public–private initiative in South Africa

BioMed Central | Published: 6 September 2017.

Christopher Paul Szabo, Jennifer Fine, Pat Mayers, Shan Naidoo, Tuviah Zabow, Mental Health Leadership Working Group

Mental health leadership is a critical component of patient access to care. More specifically, the ability of mental health professionals to articulate the needs of patients, formulate strategies and engage meaningfully at the appropriate level in pursuit of resources. This is not a skill set routinely taught to mental health professionals.

Setting targets for HIV: An evaluation of indicator quality and target achievement in National Strategic Plans.

Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes | Published: 21 August 2017

Alana Sharp, Richael Hagan, Brian JD Honermann, Gregorio Millett

National Strategic Plans (NSPs) for HIV have become foundational documents that frame responses to HIV. Both Global Fund and PEPFAR require coordination with NSPs as a component of their operations. Despite the role of NSPs in country planning, no rigorous assessment of NSP targets and performance outcomes exists. We performed a quantitative analysis of the quality of NSP indicators and targets and assessed whether historical NSP targets had been achieved.

Misdiagnosis of HIV infection during a South African community-based survey: implications for rapid HIV testing

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 29 August 2017.

Tendesayi Kufa, Ayesha BM Kharsany, Cherie Cawood, David Khanyile, Lara Lewis, Anneke Grobler, Zawadi Chipeta, Alfred Bere et al

We describe the overall accuracy and performance of a serial rapid HIV testing algorithm used in community-based HIV testing in the context of a population-based household survey conducted in two sub-districts of uMgungundlovu district, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, against reference fourth-generation HIV-1/2 antibody and p24 antigen combination immunoassays. We discuss implications of the findings on rapid HIV testing programmes.

Pregnant and breastfeeding women: A priority population for HIV viral load monitoring

PlosMedicine | Published: 15 August 2017.

Landon Myer, Shaffiq Essajee, Laura N Broyles, D Heather Watts, Maia Lesosky, Wafaa M El-Sadr, Elaine J Abrams

With more than 18 million HIV-infected individuals having initiated antiretroviral therapy (ART) in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) by the end of 2016, ensuring effective HIV care and treatment services is a global public health priority. Pregnant and postpartum women are an important population within ART programmes. In many countries, the majority of identified HIV-infected adults are women, and many women of reproductive age are diagnosed with HIV infection during pregnancy through prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) services in antenatal care (ANC).

Organisational culture and trust as influences over the implementation of equity-oriented policy in two South African case study hospitals

BioMed Central | Published: 15 September 2017.

Ermin Erasmus, Lucy Gilson, Veloshnee Govender, Moremi Nkosi

This paper uses the concepts of organisational culture and organisational trust to explore the implementation of equity-oriented policies – the Uniform Patient Fee Schedule (UPFS) and Patients' Rights Charter (PRC) - in two South African district hospitals. It contributes to the small literatures on organisational culture and trust in low- and middle-income country health systems, and broader work on health systems' people-centeredness and "software".

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

RECENT NEWS

'Alarm bells we cannot ignore': world hunger rising for first time this century

The Guardian | 15 September 2017.

UN agencies warn conflict and climate change are undermining food security, causing chronic undernourishment and threatening to reverse years of progress.

The world is running out of antibiotics, WHO report confirms

World Health Organisation | 20 September 2017.

A report, Antibacterial agents in clinical development – an analysis of the antibacterial clinical development pipeline, including tuberculosis, launched [on 20 September] by WHO shows a serious lack of new antibiotics under development to combat the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance.

Cosatu backs NHI but expert says state workers' benefits will be majorly cut

BD Live | 20 September 2017.

GEMS members who earn as much as R3,000 a month in medical scheme subsidies could lose this if government gets its way, healthcare analyst Johann Serfontein says

SA's 'health gap' is still one of the world's worst, says new study

BD Live | 15 September 2017.

SA has one of the world's greatest misalignments between development and health progress, according to The Lancet's latest Global Burden of Disease study, published on Friday.

How hunger affects the mental health of pregnant mothers

The Conversation | 24 August 2017.

The mental health of pregnant women can be affected by a range of factors, including partner violence and unemployment. But one of the key drivers that adversely affects a pregnant woman's mental health is food insecurity. Being food insecure is when someone doesn't have food or has the wrong kinds of food.

Dolutegravir may link to serious depression

Medical Brief | 13 September 2017.

Severe depression may be a side-effect of treatment with the anti-HIV drug dolutegravir, according to clinicians from The Netherlands, who report two cases of rapid onset of serious depression after initiation of therapy with the drug.

These countries medically prescribe heroin, should SA follow suit?

Bhekisisa | 5 September 2017.

It's time that evidence, not stigma, drive SA's drug policies.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

TRAINING AND RESOURCES

National HIV & TB Health Care Worker Hotline

The Medicines Information Centre | 2017.

The Medicines Information Centre (MIC) situated within the Division of Clinical Pharmacology, Department of Medicine at the University of Cape Town is the largest and only clinically-based medicine information centre in South Africa. The MIC provides a toll-free national HIV & TB hotline to all health care workers in South Africa for patient treatment related enquiries. The centre is staffed by specially-trained drug information pharmacists who share 50 years of drug information experience between them. This service is free and the hotline operates from Mondays to Fridays 8.30am – 4.30pm.

Guidance for Non-HIV-Specialized Providers Caring for Persons with HIV Displaced by Disasters

[This] information provides guidance to health care providers attending to the medical needs of adults and children with HIV displaced from disaster areas who have not yet secured HIV care in the areas where they have relocated.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Programmatic and public health implications of misdiagnosis of HIV (Journal Supplement)

Journal of the International AIDS Society | 6 August 2017.

The past two decades of the HIV response have been largely focused on the scale-up of HIV testing and treatment services. As programmes increase testing efforts, some reports of HIV misdiagnoses, have emerged. Understanding the magnitude of misdiagnosis, the key factors contributing to misdiagnosis across specific contexts and ways to avert these is critical to developing a public health approach that will be effective in both addressing and preventing misdiagnosis in the scale-up of HIV rapid testing programmes. The supplement aims to investigate diagnostic error, determine common causes, and identify potential ways to address misdiagnosis.

Guidelines on the Public Health Response to Pre-treatment HIV Drug Resistance

World Health Organisation | July 2017.

This publication provides guidance on the public health response to pretreatment HIV drug resistance (HIVDR) to non-nucleoside reverse-transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs) among people without prior antiretroviral (ARV) drug exposure or people with prior ARV exposure who are initiating or reinitiating first-line antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Antibacterial Agents in Clinical Development: An analysis of the antibacterial clinical development pipeline, including tuberculosis

World Health Organisation | 20 September 2017.

Most of the drugs currently in the clinical pipeline are modifications of existing classes of antibiotics and are only short-term solutions. [This] report found very few potential treatment options for those antibiotic-resistant infections identified by WHO as posing the greatest threat to health, including drug-resistant tuberculosis which kills around 250 000 people each year.

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Hospital Association of South Africa Conference 2017 (HASA)

25-27 September 2017

Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa

International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa 2017 (ICASA)

4-9 December 2017

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

17th World Conference on Tobacco or Health (WCTOH)

7-9 March 2018

Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa

[\(Return to Top\)](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

TAC: HR Coordinator

Closing Date: 22 September 2017

Southern African HIV Clinicians Society: General Practitioner

Closing Date: 30 September 2017

World Vision: Regional Leader – Southern Africa

Closing Date: 30 September 2017

SolidarMed: Child Health Project Manager Ancuabe, Moçambique

Closing Date: 5 October 2017

(Return to Top)



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