



# HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST BULLETIN

1 October 2010

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## Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

### Population uptake of antiretroviral treatment through primary care in rural South Africa

Cooke GS, Tanser FC, Barnighausen TW, Newell ML. *Public Health*. 2010, 10:585.  
Published: 29 September 2010.

KwaZulu-Natal is the South African province worst affected by HIV and the focus of early modeling studies investigating strategies of antiretroviral treatment (ART) delivery. The reality of antiretroviral roll-out through primary care has differed from that anticipated and real world data are needed to inform the planning of further scaling up of services. We investigated the factors associated with uptake of antiretroviral treatment through a primary healthcare system in rural South Africa....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1471-2458-10-585.pdf> [Accessed: 30 September 2010]

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### Better antiretroviral therapy outcomes at primary healthcare facilities: an evaluation of three tiers of ART services in four South African provinces

Fatti G, Grimwood A, Bock P. *PLoS ONE*. 2010, 5 (9): e12888.  
Published: 31 August 2010.

The aim of this study was to compare baseline characteristics and treatment outcomes between patients managed at different levels in the health system in a large routine patient cohort from four provinces in South Africa, representing over 7% of adults enrolled in public sector ART facilities between 2004 and 2007 in the country. Additional objectives were to compare baseline characteristics and ART outcomes between patients in different provinces and to quantify baseline determinants of poor outcome after starting ART....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0012888> [Accessed: 28 September 2010]

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## Examining the 'urban advantage' in maternal health care in developing countries

Matthews Z, Channon A, Neal S, Osrin D, Madise N, Stones W. *PLoS Med.* 2010, 7 (9): e1000327. Published: 14 September 2010.

As the global urban population surpasses the rural, continuing growth in most developing countries means an inevitable increase in urban births. The majority of births in many countries will not be in remote rural areas, but in towns and cities. Far from being good news for the twin Millennium Development Goals of maternal and child health—neither of which is currently on track for success—high levels of urbanisation are likely to be associated with increased exclusion from care for many mothers in poor countries, and continued high maternal and newborn mortality among the urban poor. Health and social services in urban areas have not kept pace with urban population growth....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1000327> [Accessed: 30 September 2010]

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## Recent News

### PHC the cornerstone of NHI – Minister

*Health-e.* Published: 30 September 2010.

It has been 18 months at the helm of one of South Africa's toughest cabinet portfolios and already Dr Aaron Motsoaledi has endured a disgruntled doctors' strike, a crippling public sector work stoppage, the untimely death of his deputy minister and complex debates on a National Health Insurance initiative, which is really the critical transformation of the health system. However, Motsoaledi is proving to be a survivor and a tactician who is determined to turn the health sector around, one health worker at a time, one patient at a time, one clinic at a time, one hospital at a time...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032950> [Accessed: 30 September 2010]

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### ANC's NHI raises dilemma for healthcare costs

*Business Day.* Published: 23 September 2010.

The proposed National Health Insurance plan will shake up the medical schemes market, with 40% of members likely to opt out and rely solely on state services, says the University of Cape Town's Prof Di McIntyre. Her research goes to an issue confronting many families and employers as the African National Congress pushes ahead with plans to introduce NHI: whether they can afford private healthcare — financed through medical scheme membership — in addition to the increased taxes likely under NHI... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.businessday.co.za/Articles/Content.aspx?id=121798> [Accessed: 28 September 2010]

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### Union says foreign doctors needed for NHI

*Mail & Guardian.* Published: 29 September 2010.

Foreign doctors will have to be recruited if the mooted national health insurance (NHI) is to be successfully implemented, hospital workers union Hospersa said on Wednesday. "While the government's NHI plan has theoretical merit, in practice it will be exceedingly difficult to implement, particularly within the envisaged timeframe of 14 years," the union said in a statement. "South Africa already suffers from an acute shortage of skilled health care personnel, yet the new system will require about 80 000 additional posts. It will be difficult to meet demands -- and it is entirely likely that foreign doctors will have to be recruited," Hospersa said....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-09-29-union-says-foreign-doctors-needed-for-nhi> [Accessed: 30 September 2010]

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### Tracking progress on MDG six

*PlusNews.* Published: 21 September 2010.

Significant strides have been made in the global fight against HIV, but major gaps remain that could prevent many countries from achieving UN Millennium Development Goal six relating to HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. PlusNews examines global efforts to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=90534> [Accessed: 28 September 2010]

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## Training and Resources

### Securing global health: second International Health Regulations (IHR) implementation course

Date: 27 September 2010 – 18 February 2011.

WHO has launched the International Health Regulations implementation course (IHR i-course). This training is the first step towards addressing the existing gaps in health education programmes. Participants will learn the skills they need to support their countries to successfully implement the IHR. In doing so they are part of the global network of partners committed to securing global health.

For more information:

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### **Presentations: Joint symposium on rural health, WHO guidelines increasing access to health workers in remote and rural areas through improved retention**

*WHO, Centre for Rural Health, National Department of Health.*

To gain access to the topics presented at the symposium, click on the links under Useful Rural Health Resources on the Rural Health Advocacy Project website.

For more information: [http://www.rhap.org.za/?page\\_id=7](http://www.rhap.org.za/?page_id=7) [Accessed: 28 September 2010]

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## **Reports and Publications**

### **Towards Universal Access: Scaling up priority HIV/AIDS interventions in the health sector – Progress Report 2010**

*World Health Organization, UNAIDS, UNICEF*

This publication reviews the progress made in 2009 in scaling up access to selected health sector interventions for HIV prevention, treatment and care in low- and middle-income countries...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: [http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/2010progressreport/full\\_report\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/2010progressreport/full_report_en.pdf) (Approximately: 3102 KB) [Accessed: 30 September 2010]

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### **Antiretroviral therapy for HIV infection in adults and adolescents - Recommendations for a public health approach: 2010 revision**

*World Health Organization.*

Since the publication in 2006 of Antiretroviral therapy for HIV infection in adults and adolescents: Recommendations for a public health approach, new evidence has emerged on when to initiate ART, optimal ART regimens, the management of HIV co- infection with tuberculosis and chronic viral hepatitis and the management of ART failure. This evidence formed the basis for the recommendations contained in the 2010 update, which outlines a public health approach to the delivery of ART for adults and adolescents in settings with limited health systems capacity and resources...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241599764\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241599764_eng.pdf) (Approximately 1810 KB) [Accessed: 30 September 2010]

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### **Accelerating progress towards the health-related Millennium Development Goals**

*World Health Organization.*

The critical role of the national health policy and strategy in strengthening health systems and delivering effective interventions in an integrated approach to accelerate progress towards the health MDGs, with a special focus on the health of women and children...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: [http://www.who.int/topics/millennium\\_development\\_goals/MDG-NHPS\\_brochure\\_2010.pdf](http://www.who.int/topics/millennium_development_goals/MDG-NHPS_brochure_2010.pdf) [Accessed: 28 September 2010]

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### **Narrowing the gaps to meet the goals**

*UNICEF*

A report on a new study shows that an equity-focused approach to child survival and development is the most practical and cost-effective way of meeting the health Millennium Development Goals for children. ...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: [http://www.unicef.org/media/files/Narrowing\\_the\\_Gaps\\_to\\_Meet\\_the\\_Goals\\_090310\\_2a.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/media/files/Narrowing_the_Gaps_to_Meet_the_Goals_090310_2a.pdf) (Approximately: 317 KB) [Accessed: 30 September 2010]

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### **South African national HIV prevalence, incidence, behaviour and communication survey, 2008: the health of our children**

*HSRC*

Understanding the general health status of children aged 18 years and below in relation to the HIV epidemic is paramount in South Africa - a country that has both the highest number of adults and children living with HIV/AIDS in the world. In this cardinal report, research findings from a population-based household survey are presented on the general health status of infants, children, and adolescents in South Africa including morbidity, utilisation of health facilities, immunisation coverage, HIV status and associated risk factors...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

To gain access to the entire publication or individual chapters, click on the free download option.

Source: <http://www.hsrbpress.ac.za/product.php?productid=2279> [Accessed: 28 September 2010]

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## Conferences

### 3rd Access to Healthcare in Africa Conference

6-7 October 2010, Johannesburg

URL: <http://www.aa4a.co.za/conference2010.htm>

Theme: *Changing Treatment Guidelines: Meeting New Challenges to Quality, Access and Care for HIV & AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa*

The main thrust of the 3rd Access to Health Care in Africa Conference will address the challenges posed to treatment, primary level initiation, the quality of the medicines and the effectiveness of the supply chain. Our panel of internationally renowned experts will present a wide range of interlinked themes on the main topics. Presentations will include matters such as how the new regimens may be introduced, adherence in times of regimen change, supply chain challenges of forecasting and quantification, the realities of rural clinics in Africa and the dynamics of the donor landscape for HIV & AIDS, TB and Malaria..

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### Sixth EDCTP Forum

9-12 October 2011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

URL: <http://www.edctp.org/Announcement.403+M5f093e1f4f1.0.html>

Theme: *Strengthening Research Partnerships for Better Health and Sustainable Development*

This Forum provides an international platform for the presentation and discussion of frontier research for everyone involved in combating the three main poverty-related diseases (HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis) and the appropriate capacity development and networking activities. It presents a unique opportunity to establish and reinforce cooperation and synergy among EDCTP stakeholders at various levels including scientific, policy, funding and political interactions.

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## Job Opportunities

### AHP - African Health Placements

AHP is a not-for-profit project that aims to support the recruitment and retention of healthcare workers in South Africa. AHP is focused on assisting healthcare professionals make the right choice for their future in South Africa. No placement fees are charged.

Please view the website for more details <http://www.ahp.org.za> or contact on 011 328 1300

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