

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Process evaluation of the central chronic medicines dispensing and distribution programme in Namakwa district, Northern Cape province protocol: a multimethod approach

BMJ Open | Published: 4 February 2020.

Kim Grace Smith, Edward Nicol

The quadruple burden of disease in South Africa, including the HIV/AIDS epidemic, has placed enormous strains on public healthcare (PHC) facilities. These strains specifically compromised the resources available to deal with high volumes of chronic diseases that contribute to medicine shortages and poor service delivery. In an attempt to address these challenges, the Central Chronic Medicines Dispensing and Distribution (CCMDD) programme, which aimed to provide public sector patients with alternative access to vital antiretroviral and other chronic medication, was implemented. This paper describes the protocol for a process evaluation of the programme compliance at the facility level in Namakwa district, to assess patient experiences and staff expectations of the programme; as well as, identifying factors that may affect the programme implementation so that guidance can be given on which approach to take to achieve programme objectives.

A decade of hepatitis C at the University of Cape Town/Groote Schuur Hospital Liver Clinic, South Africa, in the pre-direct-acting antivirals era

South African Medical Journal | Published: 29 January 2020.

R Nordien, M W Sonderup, C W Spearman

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) in South Africa (SA) is incompletely characterised and understood.

Epidemiological and clinical data will better inform our understanding and assist national policy decision-making. Against the background of more than two decades of clinical challenges in HCV management, the advent of direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) now makes HCV elimination plausible.

To better understand the base from which we come, [the authors] elected to review and characterise [their] HCV experience at Groote Schuur Hospital (GSH), Cape Town, SA, in the pegylated interferon (Peg-IFN) and ribavirin (RBV) management era.

Unpacking the dynamics of double stigma: how the HIV-TB co-epidemic alters TB

stigma and its management among healthcare workers

BMC Infectious Diseases | Published: 6 February 2020.

Edwin Wouters, Nina Sommerland, Caroline Masquillier, Asta Rau, Michelle Engelbrecht, André Janse Van Rensburg, Gladys Kigozi, et al

HIV and tuberculosis (TB) are intricably interlinked in South Africa. The social aspects of this co-epidemic remain relatively unexplored. More specifically, no research has quantitatively explored the double stigma associated with HIV and TB in this context, and more specifically the impact of the co-epidemic on [1] the stigmatisation of TB and [2] the TB stigma management strategy of covering (i.e. the use of TB as a cover for having HIV). The current study aims to address this research gap by disentangling the complex mechanisms related to HIV-TB stigma.

TB transmission is associated with prolonged stay in a low socio-economic, high burdened TB and HIV community in Cape Town, South Africa

BMC Infectious Diseases | Published: 10 February 2020.

Rebecca Tadokera, Linda-Gail Bekker, Barry N Kreiswirth, Barun Mathema, Keren Middelkoop

While several studies have assessed the associations between biological factors and tuberculosis (TB) transmission, our understanding of the associations between TB transmission and social and economic factors remains incomplete. We aimed to explore associations between community TB transmission and socio-economic factors within a high TB-HIV burdened setting.

Mental health-related conversations on social media and crisis episodes: a time-series regression analysis

Scientific Reports | Published: 06 February 2020

Anna Koliakou, Ioannis Bakolis, David Chandran, Leon Derczynski, Nomi Werbeloff, David P J Osborn, Kalina Bontcheva, Robert Stewart

[The authors] aimed to investigate whether daily fluctuations in mental health-relevant Twitter posts are associated with daily fluctuations in mental health crisis episodes. We conducted a primary and replicated time-series analysis of retrospectively collected data from Twitter and two London mental healthcare providers. Daily numbers of 'crisis episodes' were defined as incident inpatient, home treatment team and crisis house referrals between 2010 and 2014.

Health shocks, medical insurance and household vulnerability: Evidence from South Africa

PlosOne | Published: 7 February 2020.

Pheeha Morudu, Umakrishnan Kollamparambil

South Africa has a dual system of healthcare model differentiated across socio-economic lines. While on the one hand there exists high quality private facilities that is expensive and accessible to the minority, on the other is the free but stretched and over-crowded public healthcare that the rest of the population relies on. Accessing private facilities requires private medical insurance or requires coping strategies that can lead to household vulnerability.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

Sub-Saharan Africa ill-prepared for coronavirus, Gates foundation warns

BD Live | 12 February 2020.

It is feared the pandemic may be spreading undetected due to weak surveillance and health systems

How to Tackle Global Problems in an Age of Populism

Think Global Health | 6 February 2020.

Appetites for investment do exist today to define achievable goals, apply effective tools, and solve global challenges.

WHO Needs To Accelerate New Polio Vaccine Rollout & Action On Harmful Alcohol Consumption, Says Executive Board

Health Policy Watch | 2 February 2020.

After a total of 12.5 hours of consultations in five informal meetings, a bloc of countries led by Thailand

won WHO Executive Board approval for a landmark decision to develop a new ten year-action plan to reduce the harmful use of alcohol.

Study turns HIV transmission assumption on its head

Sci Dev Net | 31 January 2020.

There is a prevailing assumption that HIV spreads from hotspots to surrounding areas, but a study conducted in Uganda suggests that the opposite is the case. HIV prevention interventions that target only hotspots may not help control it.

Nuances in SA's HIV Epidemic: Seven Graphs that Tell the Story

Spotlight | 12 February 2020.

Over the last decade there have been significant decreases in the rates of new HIV infections, HIV-related deaths, and mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) in South Africa. Yet, there are still staggering gaps between different subsets of the population.

Another HIV vaccine strategy fails in large-scale study

Science | 3 February 2020.

The failure-ridden search for a vaccine that can stop the AIDS virus has delivered yet another frustrating defeat. The HIV vaccine that had moved furthest along in human testing does not work, and the \$104 million trial in South Africa evaluating it has been stopped early. "There's absolutely no evidence of efficacy," says Glenda Gray, who heads the study and is president of the South African Medical Research Council (MRC). "Years of work went into this. It's a huge disappointment."

The long walk back to yourself: How this hospital revolutionised rural rehabilitation

Bhekisisa | 12 February 2020.

A road accident, a bad fall, a stabbing. A single moment and a traumatic head injury can change everything in your life, leaving you to relearn life's basics as if you were a child — walking, talking, grasping. When the unthinkable happens, rehabilitation services can be the start of the journey back to a semblance of the life you once had. If you can get them.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Noncommunicable Diseases Progress Monitor 2020

World Health Organisation | 10 February 2020.

In May 2015 the World Health Organization published a Technical Note on how WHO will report in 2017 to the United Nations General Assembly on the progress achieved in the implementation of national commitments included in the 2011 UN Political Declaration and the 2014 UN Outcome Document on NCDs. The Technical Note was updated in September 2017 to ensure alignment with the updated set of WHO 'best-buys' and other recommended interventions for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases which were endorsed by the World Health Assembly in May 2017. The third in a series, the 2020 Progress Monitor provides data on the 19 indicators detailed in the Technical Note for all of WHO's 194 Member States. The indicators include setting time-bound targets to reduce NCD deaths; developing all-of-government policies to address NCDs; implementing key tobacco demand reduction measures, measures to reduce harmful use of alcohol and unhealthy diets and promote physical activity; and strengthening health systems through primary health care and universal health coverage.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Health Systems Trust Annual Report 2018/19

Health Systems Trust | December 2019.

As we look back on another year, and reflect on our achievements, we are reminded that what has inspired HST's success over the past 27 years has been the wish to enable people to live healthy lives, and the knowledge that our long-term success is directly linked to how well we serve others. In this report we highlight progress with about 15 projects across our health systems strengthening and research

portfolios.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Research Symposium

4 March 2020

Cape Town, South Africa

International Social and Behavior Change Communication Summit

30 March - 3 April 2020

Marrakech, Morocco

6th SA TB Conference 2020

2-5 June 2020

Durban International Convention Centre

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Post -Basic Pharmacist Assistants (eThekweni)

Closing Date: 14 February 2020

Health Systems Trust: Area Co-ordinator

Closing Date: 14 February 2020

Health Systems Trust: Nurse Clinician

Closing Date: 18 February 2020

Health Systems Trust: District Training Co-ordinator

Closing Date: 19 February 2020

Health Systems Trust: Post-Basic Pharmacist Assistants (uMgungundlovu)

Closing Date: 24 February 2020

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