

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

Universal health coverage, priority setting, and the human right to health

The Lancet | Published: 26 April 2017.

Benedict Rumbold, Rachel Baker, Octavio Ferraz, Prof Sarah Hawkes, Carleigh Krubiner, Peter Littlejohns, Ole F Norheim, Thomas Pegram, et al.

Following endorsement by WHO, the World Bank, and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, the drive towards universal health coverage (UHC) is now one of the most prominent global health policies. As countries progress towards UHC, they are forced to make difficult choices about how to prioritise health issues and expenditure: which services to expand first, whom to include first, and how to shift from out-of-pocket payment towards prepayment. Building on extensive philosophical literature on the ethics of priority setting in health care, a 2014 WHO report provided guidance about how states can resolve these issues.

Building Health System Capacity through Implementation Research: Experience of INSPIREA Multi-country PMTCT Implementation Research Project

Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome | Published: 1 June 2017.

Morkor Newman Owiredo, Nita B Bellare, Christine C Chakanyuka Musanhu, Taiwo A Oyelade, Ellen M Thom, Francoise Bigirimana, Chukwuma Anyaibe, Michael T Eliya, et al.

The INSPIRE—Integrating and Scaling Up PMTCT through Implementation REsearch—initiative was established as a model partnership of national prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) implementation research in three high HIV burden countries—Malawi, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe. INSPIRE aimed to link local research groups with Ministries of Health (MOH), build local research capacity, and demonstrate that implementation research may contribute to improving health care delivery and respond to program challenges.

Improved life expectancy of people living with HIV: who is left behind?

The Lancet | Published: 10 May 2017.

Ingrid T Katz, Brendan Maughan-Brown

The introduction of combination antiretroviral therapy (ART) has been one of the great public health success stories of the past 40 years. ART has led to increased survival in people living with HIV, and subsequently to individual and societal gains worldwide, because of the marked improvements in its potency, side-effect profile, and simplicity of use. Despite these improvements, cohort studies show a small but persistent gap in the lifespan between HIV-positive and HIV-negative individuals, particularly within key affected populations.

Compliance with standard treatment guidelines in the management of hypertension: a review of practice of healthcare workers in Potchefstroom, North West Province, South Africa

South African Family Practice | Published: 30 January 2017.

Peter Rapula Siko, Claire van Deventer

Hypertension is a leading lifestyle disease and major cause of morbidity and mortality in South Africa, and globally. Standard Treatment Guidelines are issued in this country to assist healthcare workers in the diagnosis and management thereof. Considering the debilitating effects caused by hypertension, the objectives were to find out whether healthcare workers diagnose and manage hypertension correctly in terms of compliance with the guidelines.

Task shifting of triage to peer expert informal care providers at a tertiary referral HIV clinic in Malawi: a cross-sectional operational evaluation

BioMed Central | Published: 9 May 2017.

Megan Landes, Courtney Thompson, Edson Mwinjiwa, Edith Thaulo, Chrissie Gondwe, Harriet Akello and Adrienne K Chan

HIV treatment models in Africa are labour intensive and require a high number of skilled staff. In this context, task-shifting is considered a feasible alternative for ART service delivery. In 2006, a lay health cadre of expert patients (EPs) at a tertiary referral HIV clinic in Zomba, Malawi was capacitated. There are few evaluations of EP program efficacy in this setting. Triage is the process of prioritizing patients in terms of the severity of their condition and ensures that no harmful delays occur to treatment and care. This study evaluates the safety of task-shifting triage, in an ambulatory low resource setting, to EPs.

Learners' perspectives on the provision of condoms in South African public schools

AIDS Care | Published: 16 May 2017.

W E de Bruin & S Panday-Soobrayan

A stubborn health challenge for learners in South African public schools concerns sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). In 2015, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) proposed the provision of condoms and SRHR-services to learners in schools. This study aimed to contribute to the finalisation and implementation of DBE's policy by exploring learners' perspectives on the provision of condoms and SRHR-services in schools. The majority of learners did not support condom provision in schools as they feared that it may increase sexual activity. Contrarily, they supported the provision of other SRHR-services as clinics fail to offer youth-friendly services.

HIV and the criminalisation of drug use among people who inject drugs: a systematic review

The Lancet | Published: 14 May 2017.

Kora DeBeck, Tessa Cheng, Julio S Montaner, Chris Beyrer, Richard Elliott, Susan Sherman, Evan Wood, Dr Stefan Baral

Mounting evidence suggests that laws and policies prohibiting illegal drug use could have a central role in shaping health outcomes among people who inject drugs (PWID). To date, no systematic review has characterised the influence of laws and legal frameworks prohibiting drug use on HIV prevention and treatment.

Consensus statement: Supporting Safer Conception and Pregnancy for Men and Women Living with and Affected by HIV

AIDS and Behaviour | Published: 13 May 2017.

Lynn T Matthews, Jolly Beyeza-Kashesya, Ian Cooke, Natasha Davies, Renee Heffron, Angela Kaida, John Kinuthia, Okeoma Mmeje, Augusto E. Semprini, Shannon Weber

Safer conception interventions reduce HIV incidence while supporting the reproductive goals of people living with or affected by HIV. We developed a consensus statement to address demand, summarize science, identify information gaps, outline research and policy priorities, and advocate for safer conception services. This statement emerged from a process incorporating consultation from meetings, literature, and key stakeholders. Three co-authors developed an outline which was discussed and modified with co-authors, working group members, and additional clinical, policy, and community experts in safer conception, HIV, and fertility.

Progression of the epidemiological transition in a rural South African setting: findings from population surveillance in Agincourt, 1993–2013

BioMed Central | Published: 10 May 2017.

Chodziwadziwa W Kabudula, Brian Houle, Mark A Collinson, Kathleen Kahn, Francesc Xavier Gómez-Olivé, Samuel J Clark and Stephen Tollman

Virtually all low- and middle-income countries are undergoing an epidemiological transition whose progression is more varied than experienced in high-income countries. Observed changes in mortality and disease patterns reveal that the transition in most low- and middle-income countries is characterized by reversals, partial changes and the simultaneous occurrence of different types of diseases of varying magnitude. Localized characterization of this shifting burden, frequently lacking, is essential to guide decentralised health and social systems on the effective targeting of limited resources. Based on a rigorous compilation of mortality data over two decades, this paper provides a comprehensive assessment of the epidemiological transition in a rural South African population.

Ethical and legal perspectives on the medical practitioner's use of social media

The South African Medical Journal | Published: May 2017

Brenda Kubheka

Use of social media has increased exponentially throughout the world. Social media provides a platform for building social and professional relationships that can be used by all, including healthcare professionals. Alongside the benefits of creating networks and spreading information wider and faster than is possible with traditional communication channels, however, it presents ethical and legal challenges. For health professionals, it poses a threat to confidentiality and privacy owed to patients, colleagues and employers. It is vital for health professionals to acknowledge that the same ethical and legal standards apply both online and offline, and that they are accountable to professional bodies and the law for their online activities. This article seeks to explore the ethical and legal pitfalls facing health professionals using social media platforms. Importantly, it seeks to create awareness about the cyberpsychology phenomenon called the 'online disinhibition effect', responsible for lowering restraint during online activities.

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

RECENT NEWS

Why the NHI may take softer approach

Business Day | 15 May 2017.

Cabinet subcommittee to vote on revised health insurance plan, which Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi says will initially let private plans continue.

Aaron Motsoaledi deflects attack by Cosatu on national health scheme

Business Day | 17 May 2017.

Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi moved on Tuesday to defend his position on National Health Insurance (NHI) after Cosatu accused him of betraying voters by offering medical schemes a lifeline.

Leadership in AIDS Award

SA AIDS | 2017.

Dira Sengwe, organisers of the 7th South African AIDS Conference, invites individuals or organisations to enter its Leadership in AIDS Award 2017. This Award will be made to an individual or an organisation that have made an extraordinary contribution in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Emergency vaccination to curb measles outbreak in Gauteng

Health-E News | 15 May 2017.

The City of Johannesburg is launching an emergency measles vaccination campaign following after 11 cases of the illness have been reported in Gauteng.

Many toddlers are falling through SA's vaccination net

Business Day | 15 May 2017.

One in 10 of Mpumalanga's children under the age of two has not had any of the shots required under the government's childhood immunisation programme, according to the South Africa Demographic Health Survey (DHMS) 2016 released on Monday by Statistics SA.

Survey finds teenage girls do not get pregnant for grants

BDlive | 15 May 2017.

There is absolutely no evidence that young women are deliberately falling pregnant in order to access the child support grant, Statistician-General Pali Lehohla said on Monday as he released the findings of the South Africa Demographic and Health Survey (SADHS) 2016.

Trump expands policy that bans US aid for overseas abortion providers

The Guardian | 15 May 2017.

The Trump administration on Monday significantly expanded a Reagan-era policy banning foreign aid to international healthcare providers who discuss abortion or advocate for abortion rights, in a move critics fear will jeopardize efforts to fight diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, and the Zika virus.

The great drugs bungle: How hospital doctors and nurses put kids at risk

BDlive | 14 May 2017.

Hundreds of medication errors are made in children's wards at one of the country's leading hospitals.

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

TRAINING AND RESOURCES

UWC Master of Public Health: study while you work, applications for 2018 now open

University of the Western Cape | 2018.

The School of Public Health at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa, equips graduates with the knowledge and skills to contribute to transforming the health and welfare sectors in developing countries and improving the health status of populations. Students can study while they work, and gain credits incrementally towards a Master of Public Health (MPH) or Post Diploma (PGD) in Public Health. These flexible, modular Programmes use text-based and e-learning as its learning media, with optional contact sessions in Cape Town in February/March and June/July every year.

Differentiated Care Models across the HIV Continuum: Insights & Innovations

FHI 360 | 12 June 2017.

2:30 PM – 7:00 PM SAST

Join FHI 360 for a lively discussion and reception to help kick off the 8th South Africa AIDS conference in Durban, June 13-15. FHI 360 is bringing together HIV experts from Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, South Africa and Zimbabwe to address key gaps across the continuum of care - #betterHIVcare. Participants will discuss how they are applying novel approaches in index testing, home-based family testing, elimination of mother-to-child transmission, and differentiated care. Examples will include programs targeting families,

key populations and adolescents.

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

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

National Strategic Plan on HIV, TB and STIs (NSP) 2017-2022

SANAC | 2017.

The comprehensive version of the the fourth National Strategic Plan on HIV, TB and STIs (NSP) 2017-2022 is now available. It builds on the significant progress achieved to date, addresses gaps identified during the past five years and seeks to scale up best practice to ensure that quality and innovation underpins service provision. The NSP outlines the strategic framework for a multi-sectoral partnership to further accelerate progress in reducing the morbidity (illness) and mortality (death) associated with HIV, TB and STIs in South Africa. Provinces will develop context specific Provincial Implement Plans (PIP) to operationalise in greater detail the broad strategic directions and approaches planned. This decentralised process will enable the national strategies for HIV, TB and STIs to be tailored to the specific needs and conditions in provinces and communities. Government departments, civil society sectors and the private sector will also develop their own sectoral implementation plans.

European Medicines Agency Annual Report 2016

European Medicines Agency | 2017.

This report provides an excellent overview of the work done by the Agency together with the national competent authorities of the European Union and the European Commission, which form the European medicines regulatory network. Working together, the network strives to apply the best scientific and regulatory standards to protect and promote the health of all citizens and animals in the EU.

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

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

World Health Assembly: Perspectives from woman leaders (side event)

22 May 2017

Geneva, Switzerland

ICHA 2017: 19th International Conference on HIV and AIDS

25-26 May 2017

Wembley, London

9th Child Trauma Conference

10-11 June 2017

ICC, Durban, South Africa

SA AIDS

13 - 16 June 2017

International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa

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

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Grants Officer

Closing Date: 19 May 2017

Health-e News: Manager of Operations

Closing Date: 22 May 2017

St Luke's Hospice: Nurse

Closing Date: 22 May 2017

Red Cross: Reporting Officer, Prevention Officer and others

Closing Date: 23 May 2017



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