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## Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

### **The National Health Service: Value for money, value for many**

Rifat Atun. *Lancet*. Published: 14 March 2015.

The National Health System (NHS) is one of the proudest achievements of the UK. Established in 1948, the NHS has not only played an important part in improving the health of the nation, but has provided to citizens and residents of the UK financial protection during illness and sickness...[Read More »](#)

Source: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(15\)60499-8/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)60499-8/fulltext)[Accessed: 20 March 2015]

### **Productivity and quality of Dutch hospitals during system reform**

*Martin van Ineveld, Jeroen van Oostrum, Rob Vermeulen, Adri Steenhoek, Joris van de Klundert. Health Care Management Science. Published: 23 February 2015.*

At the turn of the millennium, The Netherlands used a closed budgeting system for hospital reimbursement, which was primarily based on hospital wide production parameters...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10729-015-9321-7>[Accessed: 20 March 2015]

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### **The role of 'hidden' community volunteers in community-based health service delivery platforms: Examples from sub-Saharan Africa**

*Natalie Leon, David Sanders, Wim Van Damme, Donela Besada, Emmanuelle Daviaud, Nicholas P. Oliphant, Rocio Berzal, John Mason and Tanya Doherty. Global Health Action. Published: 12 March 2015.*

Community-based research on child survival in sub-Saharan Africa has focussed on the increased provision of curative health services by a formalised cadre of lay community health workers (CHWs), but we have identified a particular configuration that deserves closer scrutiny...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.globalhealthaction.net/index.php/gha/article/view/27214>[Accessed: 20 March 2015]

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### **Cost evaluation of reproductive and primary health care mobile service delivery for women in two rural districts in South Africa**

*Kathryn Schnippel, Naomi Lince-Deroche, Theo van den Handel, Seithati Molefi, Suann Bruce, Cynthia Firnhaber. Plos One. Published: 9 March 2015.*

Cervical cancer screening is a critical health service that is often unavailable to women in under-resourced settings. In order to expand access to this and other reproductive and primary health care services, a South African non-governmental organization established a van-based mobile clinic...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0119236>[Accessed: 20 March 2015]

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### **Opportunities for strengthening provider-initiated testing and counselling for HIV in Namibia**

*Tracy Davyduke, Ismelda Pietersen, David Lowrance, Selma Amwaama, Miriam Taegtmeier. Aids Care. Published: 16 March 2015.*

This short report identifies enablers and barriers to the uptake of provider-initiated testing and counselling for HIV (PITC) in Namibia and identifies key opportunities for strengthening this vital aspect of the national HIV response.[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09540121.2015.1020281#abstract>[Accessed: 20 March 2015]

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### **Potential impact and cost-effectiveness of self-testing for HIV in low-income countries**

*Benjamin P Linas. Journal of Infectious Diseases. Published: 12 March 2015.*

Scale up of antiretroviral therapy (ART) in resource-limited settings has changed the face of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and dramatically reduced HIV-related mortality. Despite major progress, however, approximately 50% of HIV-infected persons who live in resource-limited settings do not yet know their HIV status...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://jid.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2015/03/10/infdis.jiv041.full>[Accessed: 20 March 2015]

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### **How much does it cost to improve access to voluntary medical male circumcision among high-risk, low-income communities in Uganda?**

*Bruce Larson, Allan Tindikahwa, George Mwidu, Hannah Kibuuka, Fred Magala. Plos One. Published: 16 March 2015.*

The Ugandan Ministry of Health has endorsed voluntary medical male circumcision as an HIV prevention strategy and has set ambitious goals (e.g., 4.2 million circumcisions by 2015). Innovative strategies to improve access for hard to reach, high risk, and poor populations are essential for reaching such goals.[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0119484>[Accessed: 20 March 2015]

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## **Recent News**

### **TB fight could soon get boost from simple swab diagnostic test**

*BDlive. Published: 19 March 2015.*

A simple mouth swab may one day help diagnose tuberculosis, if the results of a small trial conducted in Worcester and Seattle can be replicated...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.bdlive.co.za/national/health/2015/03/19/tb-fight-could-soon-get-boost-from-simple-swab-diagnostic-test>[Accessed: 20 March 2015]

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### **New scheme to help patients in Province**

*Diamond Fields Advertiser. Published: 13 March 2015.*

Patients in the Pixley ka Seme District who are on chronic medication now have more options to choose from when it comes to collecting their medication. The Central Chronic Medicine Distribution and Dispensing Programme (CCMDDP) is a joint initiative between Health Systems Trust (HST) and the Department of Health, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://diamondfieldsadvertiser.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/showarticle.aspx?&article=aea6710e-f2ff-428b-ab94-4148a4137d38&viewmode=2&page=11>[Accessed: 20 March 2015]

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### **New innovations at Groote Schuur offer hope to patients and nurses**

*Ground Up. Published: 17 March 2015.*

A year after receiving a kidney transplant, Vuyo [not his real name] travelled to the Eastern Cape to visit his grandmother. A young man of 19, Vuyo had been making good progress after the operation...[Read More »](#)

Source: [http://groundup.org.za/article/new-innovations-groote-schuur-offer-hope-patients-and-nurses\\_2763#sthash.qrMddxzJ.dpuf](http://groundup.org.za/article/new-innovations-groote-schuur-offer-hope-patients-and-nurses_2763#sthash.qrMddxzJ.dpuf)[Accessed: 20 March 2015]

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### **Concern over NHI's failure to woo doctors**

*BDlive. Published: 16 March 2015.*

Four years into implementing National Health Insurance (NHI), the Department of Health has failed to persuade significant numbers of private sector general practitioners (GPs) to work in its facilities, raising doubts about its feasibility...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.bdlive.co.za/national/health/2015/03/16/concern-over-nhis-failure-to-woo-doctors>[Accessed: 20 March 2015]

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### **SA to get medical ombudsman**

*news24. Published: 10 March 2015.*

Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi has announced that the Department of Health in South Africa will be advertising a position for their first ombudsman...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://m.news24.com/health24/Medical-schemes/News/SA-to-get-medical-ombudsman-20150310>[Accessed: 20 March 2015]

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### **Health professionals council probed**

*BDlive. Published: 11 March 2015.*

Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi has launched an independent investigation of allegations against the Health Professions Council of SA (HPCSA), including maladministration and fitness of its managers to lead it...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.bdlive.co.za/national/2015/03/11/health-professionals-council-probed>[Accessed: 20 March 2015]

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### **Review: More than one path to health**

*BDlive. Published: 10 March 2015.*

In his book, How to Fail at Almost Everything and Still Win Big, Dilbert creator Scott Adams writes that to succeed, you need simple systems that move you from bad odds to better odds. This captures what is required to successfully integrate African traditional medicine into the South African primary healthcare system as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO)...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.bdlive.co.za/life/health/2015/03/10/review-more-than-one-path-to-health>[Accessed: 20 March 2015]

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### **MLAC aims to reduce AIDS prevalence in Mpumalanga**

*SABC. Published: 10 March 2015.*

The Mbombela Local Municipality has launched the Mbombela Local Aids Council (MLAC). The Council is aimed at supporting local people infected with HIV/AIDS by offering counselling and provision of medication if necessary. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.sabc.co.za/news/a/56c81c004797928da0fee642d945d4b0/MLAC-aims--to-reduce-Aids-prevalence-in-Mpumalanga-20150310>[Accessed: 20 March 2015]

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### **Global health partners begin building a new approach to ensure equitable access to medicines**

*UNAIDS. Published: 26 February 2015.*

Global health partners met in Geneva to begin the process of building a new approach to better determine health needs and constraints and addressing them in countries... [Read More »](#)

Source: [http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2015/february/20150226\\_EAI](http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2015/february/20150226_EAI)[Accessed: 20 March 2015]

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### **Preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV is an unfinished task**

*UNAIDS. Published: 11 March 2015.*

The progress made in global efforts to improve women's and children's health was highlighted at an Every Woman Every Child event hosted by the United Nations Secretary-General at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, being held in New York, United States of America... [Read More »](#)

Source: [http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2015/march/20150311\\_ewec](http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2015/march/20150311_ewec)[Accessed: 20 March 2015]

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### **Draft policy: Early Childhood Development Policy**

*Health-e News. Published: 18 March 2015.*

Prompted by the lack of recognition of the benefits or right to early childhood education (ECD), the policy has five main objectives including ensuring equitable access to ECD services, co-ordinating a multisectoral approach to ECD provision, and ensuring adequate budgeting and monitoring of ECD services. The public comment period on the 164-page draft policy closes 24 April 2015. [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/2015/03/18/draft-policy-early-childhood-development-policy/>[Accessed: 20 March 2015]

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## **Training and Resources**

### **Pharmaceutical Public Health short courses**

*University of the Western Cape*

*Rational Medicines Use: 29 June to 3 July 2015*

*Medicines Supply Management: 6-10 July 2015*

*Contact: Dr Hazel Bradley - Tel: 021 959 2630 or E-mail: hbradley@uwc.ac.za*

Two, 1-week short courses on medicines use and management will be offered during the School of Public Health (SOPH) Winter School at the University of the Western Cape (UWC). These courses will be facilitated by staff from the SOPH and School of Pharmacy at UWC, Prof Richard Laing from Boston University (formerly WHO) and SIAPS/Management Sciences for Health, with input from the Department of Health.

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## **Books, Publications, Reports and Manuals**

### **Guidelines for the prevention, care and treatment of persons with chronic hepatitis B infection**

*WHO*

These are the first World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines for the prevention, care and treatment of persons living with chronic hepatitis B (CHB) infection, and complement similar recently published guidance by WHO on the prevention, care and treatment of infection due to the hepatitis C virus (HCV). [Click Here»](#)

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### **Strengthening the protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the African region through human rights**

*Pretoria University Law Press*

The human rights relating to sexual and reproductive health typify unmet human rights needs in the African region. Despite drawing sustenance from international human rights jurisprudence, their realisation at a domestic level is often precarious. [Click Here»](#)

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### **Medicines and Related Substances Act as amended**

*National Department of Health Government Gazette*

Regulations relating to a transparent pricing system for medicines and scheduled substances: Dispensing fee for pharmacists [Click Here»](#)

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### **Medicines and Related Substances Act**

*National Department of Health Government Gazette*

Regulations relating to a transparent pricing system for medicines and scheduled substances: Information to be supplied by persons licensed to dispense in terms of section 22C(1)(a) - a call for input on the process [Click Here»](#)

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## **Conferences and Events**

### **Health Information Systems Program - SA 2015 International Conference**

*When: 21-24 April 2015*

*Venue: Bloemfontein, South Africa*

*URL: <http://www.hisp.org>*

Over the last 20 years, the District Health Information System in South Africa and in many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia has evolved significantly from a paper based system to a web based system. The conference is expected to be a platform through which this evolution is explored and where best practices and lessons learned are being shared.

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### **19th World Conference on Disaster and Emergency Medicine 2015**

*When: 21-25 April 2015*

*Venue: Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa*

*URL: <http://www.wcdem2015.org/>*

2015 is an important year for WCDEM, as it will be the first time that this key conference is held in Africa. Disasters can strike anywhere, but often cause the greatest devastation when they hit communities that are not prepared to handle the resulting devastation. With this in mind, the theme for the 2015 conference will be Creating Capacity, Building Resilience.

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### **2nd Building Children's Nursing for Africa 2015**

*When: 22-24 April 2015*

*Venue: Belmont Square, Cape Town, South Africa*

*URL: <http://www.buildingchildrensnursing.co.za/>*

This event is designed to facilitate active participation of nurses and other professionals who work with and care for infants, children and adolescents in African hospitals and communities. The conference will offer a unique opportunity for participants to consider best practice in local contexts for nurses, nurse educators, researchers and families.

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### **7th SA AIDS Conference: Reflection, Refocus and Renewal**

*When: 9-12 June 2015*

*Venue: Durban International Convention Centre, South Africa*

*URL: <http://www.saids.co.za/>*

This Conference comes at a critical time in global health, as 2015 marks the end of the MDGs and the beginning of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. The theme of the Conference this year: Reflection, Refocus and Renewal provides a unique opportunity to reflect on what we have done across the entire spectrum of our programmes in the response to HIV, including the structural and social determinants which fuel this epidemic.

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### **AIDSImpact 2015 – 12th International Conference**

*When: 28-31 July 2015*

*Venue: Amsterdam, Netherlands*

*URL: <http://www.aidsimpact.com/2015/>*

AIDSImpact is an international behavioral and psychosocial science conference that addresses issues related to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care, focusing both globally and on specific communities and countries hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. AIDSImpact first convened in Amsterdam in 1991. Now, in 2015 the 12th AIDSImpact conference returns to the city.

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### **5th Conference of the International Society for Child Indicators**

*When: 2-4 September 2015*

*Venue: University of Cape Town, South Africa*

*URL: <http://isc2015.org/>*

The 5th Conference of the International Society for Child Indicators will be held on 2-4 September 2015 in the Kramer Law Building, University of Cape Town. Researchers, practitioners, policy makers and child advocates from across the world will gather for three days to share and discuss the latest child indicator research and implications for policy and interventions. The theme of the conference is: "From Welfare to Well-being: Child indicators in research, policy and practice."

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### **Rural Doctors Association of South Africa (RuDASA)**

*When: 23-26 September 2015*

*Venue: Mpumalanga, South Africa*

*URL: <http://www.rudasa.org.za/>*

An annual RuDASA conference has been organised almost every year since 1996, and attracts a range of rural health professionals from all over the country. The conference is a much-anticipated, vibrant forum which combines a mixture of sessions ranging from clinical skills updates for and by a wide range of health professionals to emotive discussions and workshops on issues such as justice and equity.

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### **Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) Conference**

*When: 7-9 October 2015*

*Venue: Southern Sun Elangeni, Durban, South Africa*

*URL: <http://www.phasaconference.org.za>*

The 11th Annual Conference of the Public Health Association of South Africa takes place between 7-9 October 2015 in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. With 2015 being the target date for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the conference will provide an opportunity to reflect on the challenges faced by South Africa and Africa in trying to achieve the MDGs.

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## **Job Opportunities**

### **Health Systems Trust**

- **District Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Mentor**  
*Closing Date: 27 March 2015*  
*Please view our website for more details*  
<http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/district-monitoring-and-evaluation-me-mentor-0>
- **Facility Mentor - Mangaung**  
*Closing Date: 27 March 2015*  
*Please view our website for more details*  
<http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/facility-mentor-mangaung>
- **Facility Mentor - Fezile Dabi**  
*Closing Date: 2 April 2015*  
*Please view our website for more details*  
<http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/facility-mentor-fezile-dabi>
- **Senior Administrator**  
*Closing Date: 2 April 2015*  
*Please view our website for more details*  
<http://www.hst.org.za/jobs/senior-administrator>

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