

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Community health worker perspectives on a new primary health care initiative in the Eastern Cape of South Africa

PlosOne | Published: 16 March 2017.

Katherine Austin-Evelyn, Miriam Rabkin, Tonderayi Macheke, Anthony Mutiti, Judith Mwansa-Kambafwile, Thomas Dlamini, Wafaa M El-Sadr

In 2010, South Africa's National Department of Health launched a national primary health care (PHC) initiative to strengthen health promotion, disease prevention, and early disease detection. The strategy, called Re-engineering Primary Health Care (rPHC), aims to provide a preventive and health-promoting community-based PHC model. A key component of rPHC is the use of community-based outreach teams staffed by generalist community health workers (CHWs).

Quality of Care in Performance-Based Financing: How It Is Incorporated in 32 Programs across 28 Countries

Global Health: Science & Practice | Published: 15 March 2017.

Jessica Gergen, Erik Josephson, Martha Coe, Samantha Ski, Supriya Madhavan, Sebastian Bauhoff

A study to describe how quality of care is incorporated into performance-based financing (PBF) programs, what quality indicators are being used, and how these indicators are measured and verified. An exploratory scoping methodology was used to characterize the full range of quality components in 32 PBF programs, initiated between 2008 and 2015 in 28 low- and middle-income countries, totalling 68 quality tools and 8,490 quality indicators. The programs were identified through a review of the peer-reviewed and gray literature as well as through expert consultation with key donor representatives.

Knowledge, attitudes and practices of South African healthcare workers regarding the prevention and treatment of influenza among HIV-infected individuals

PlosOne | Published: 16 March 2017.

Jazmin Duque, Sisanda Gaga, David Clark, Madeleine Muller, Bulenani Kuwane, Cheryl Cohen, Sibongile Walaza, Stefano Tempia, et al.

The South African Department of Health (DOH) publishes annual guidelines identifying priority groups, including immunosuppressed individuals and healthcare workers (HCW), for influenza vaccination and treatment. How these guidelines have impacted HCW and their patients, particularly those infected with HIV, remains unknown. We aimed to describe the knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding influenza and the vaccine among South African HCW. Surveys were distributed by two local non-governmental organizations in public health clinics and hospitals in 21 districts/municipalities (5 of 9 provinces).

Client uptake of safer conception strategies: implementation outcomes from the Sakh'umndeni Safer Conception Clinic in South Africa

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 8 March 2017.

Sheree R Schwartz, Jean Bassett, Charles B Holmes, Nompumelelo Yende, Rebecca Phofa, Ian Sanne and Annelies Van Rie

Implementation of safer conception services for HIV-affected couples within primary healthcare clinics in resource-limited settings remains limited. We review service utilization and safer conception strategy uptake during the first three years of Sakh'umndeni, which is a safer conception clinic in South Africa.

Offering pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention to pregnant and postpartum women: a clinical approach

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 8 March 2017.

Dominika L Seidman, Shannon Weber and Deborah Cohan

HIV prevention during pregnancy and lactation is critical for both maternal and child health. Pregnancy provides a critical opportunity for clinicians to elicit women's vulnerabilities to HIV and offer HIV testing, treatment and referral and/or comprehensive HIV prevention options for the current pregnancy, the postpartum period and safer conception options for future pregnancies. In this commentary, we review the safety of oral pre-exposure prophylaxis with tenofovir/emtricitabine in pregnant and lactating women and suggest opportunities to identify pregnant and postpartum women at substantial risk of HIV. We then describe a clinical approach to caring for women who both choose and decline pre-exposure prophylaxis during pregnancy and postpartum, highlighting areas for future research.

Supporting HIV prevention and reproductive goals in an HIV-endemic setting: taking safer conception services from policy to practice in South Africa

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 8 March 2017.

Natasha ECG Davies, Lynn T Matthews, Tamaryn L Crankshaw, Di Cooper and Sheree R Schwartz

Safer conception care encompasses HIV care, treatment and prevention for persons living with HIV and their partners who desire children. In 2012, South Africa endorsed a progressive safer conception policy supporting HIV-affected persons to safely meet reproductive goals. However, aside from select research-supported clinics, widespread implementation has not occurred. Using South Africa as a case study, we identify key obstacles to policy implementation and offer recommendations to catalyse expansion of these services throughout South Africa and further afield.

Is it all about the money? A qualitative exploration of the effects of performance-based financial incentives on Zimbabwe's voluntary male medical circumcision program

PlosOne | Published: 16 March 2017.

Caryl Feldacker, Aaron F Bochner, Amy Herman-Roloff, Marianne Holec, Vernon Murenje, Abby Stepaniak, Sinokuthemba Xaba, Mufata Tshimanga, et al.

In 2013, Zimbabwe's voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) program adopted performance-based financing (PBF) to speed progress towards ambitious VMMC targets. The \$25 USD PBF intended to encourage low-paid healthcare workers to remain in the public sector and to strengthen the public healthcare system. The majority of the incentive supports healthcare workers (HCWs) who perform VMMC alongside other routine services; a small portion supports province, district, and facility levels.

Gender-Specific Combination HIV Prevention for Youth in High-Burden Settings: The MP3 Youth Observational Pilot Study Protocol

Journal of Medical Internet Research | Published: 8 March 2017.

Jasmine Buttolph, Irene Inwani, Kawango Agot, Charles M Cleland, Peter Cherutich, James N Kiarie, Alfred Osofi, Connie L Celum, et al.

Nearly three decades into the epidemic, sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) remains the region most heavily affected by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), with nearly 70% of the 34 million people living with HIV globally residing in the region. In SSA, female and male youth (15 to 24 years) are at a disproportionately high risk of HIV infection compared to adults. As such, there is a need to target HIV prevention strategies to youth and to tailor them to a gender-specific context. This protocol describes the process for the multi-staged approach in the design of the MP3 Youth pilot study, a gender-specific, combination, HIV prevention intervention for youth in Kenya.

Impact of telemonitoring approaches on integrated HIV and TB diagnosis and treatment interventions in sub-Saharan Africa: a scoping review

Health Promotion Perspectives | Published: 5 March 2017.

Clarence S Yah, Ernest Tambo, Christopher Khayeka-Wandabwa, Jeanne Y Ngogang

This paper explores telemonitoring/mhealth approaches as a promising real time and contextual strategy in overhauling HIV and TB interventions quality access and uptake, retention, adherence and coverage impact in endemic and prone-epidemic prevention and control in sub-Sahara Africa.

Indoor air quality of low and middle income urban households in Durban, South Africa

Environmental Research | Published: July 2017.

Nkosana Jaftha, Lars Barregard, Prakash M. Jeena, Rajen N. Naidoo

Elevated levels of indoor air pollutants may cause cardiopulmonary disease such as lower respiratory infection, chronic obstructive lung disease and lung cancer, but the association with tuberculosis (TB) is unclear. So far the risk estimates of TB infection or/and disease due to indoor air pollution (IAP) exposure are based on self-reported exposures rather than direct measurements of IAP, and these exposures have not been validated.

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RECENT NEWS

There's a new killer in town

Health-E News | 13 March 2017.

This killer preys on older, overweight and obese women – mainly from poor communities. It has been moving stealthily through the population, its influence under-estimated as our attention has been focused on HIV and tuberculosis.

HPCSA urges residents to report misconduct

Health-E News | 14 March 2017.

Patients who are badly treated at Limpopo hospitals are failing to report negligence or misconduct, prompting the Health Professions Council of South Africa to launch an awareness campaign to inform people of their rights.

Doctors pass the scalpel in the quest for safer births

Bhekisisa | 21 March 2017.

A doctor shortage in war-torn Mozambique paved the way for a new breed of surgeons that have slashed deaths among new mothers.

Kenyan medical students are learning through a community outreach model

The Conversation | 21 March 2017.

This is a time of unprecedented change in medical education globally. Medical schools, postgraduate bodies and other organisations are responding to rapid advances in medicine and changes in health care delivery.

National HIV plan scraps calls to decriminalise drug use

Bhekisisa | 21 March 2017.

Contraception may be finally coming to a secondary school near you.

Free Zimbabwean contraceptives smuggled for sale in South Africa

Times Live | 20 March 2017.

Every month, Nancy (not her real name) and her business partner travel to Zimbabwe to stock up on Marvelon family planning pills. She smuggles them back into South Africa, where she sells them at a healthy profit to other Zimbabweans who for various reasons don't want the contraceptive pills dispensed in South African clinics.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

"Time to Protection" for PrEP

AVAC | *Published: 9 February 2017.*

There has been a lot of discussion about the different PrEP guidelines with respect to how long it takes women to get protection with oral PrEP. This webinar included pharmacologists who have studied drug levels in the blood and tissue of PrEP users, as well as representatives from the WHO who were involved in developing the guidance on this topic along with advocates and implementers.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Problem Management Plus (PM+) Individual psychological help for adults impaired by distress in communities exposed to adversity

WHO | *Published: 2016.*

With this manual, the World Health Organization (WHO) is responding to requests from colleagues around the world who seek guidance on psychological interventions for people exposed to adversity. The manual describes a scalable psychological intervention called Problem Management Plus (PM+) for adults impaired by distress in communities who are exposed to adversity. Aspects of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) have been changed to make them feasible in communities that do not have many specialists. To ensure maximum use, the intervention is developed in such a way that it can help people with depression, anxiety and stress, whether or not exposure to adversity has caused these problems. It can be applied to improve aspects of mental health and psychosocial well-being no matter how severe people's problems are.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

ISPOR SA Chapter Workshop: "What's the evidence?" - A practical approach on the HTA process in the UK: From the NICE appraisal to reimbursement

16 May 2017

Protea Hotel Marriot Balalaika, Johannesburg, South Africa

For information, contact: info@isporsa.co.za

Global Evidence Summit

13 - 16 September 2017

Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa

Rural Health Conference 2017

22 - 25 September 2017

Taung, North West Province, South Africa

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation: Clinical Project Manager

Closing Date: 28 March 2017

Philani: Administrative Assistant - Training Unit

Closing Date: 31 March 2017

Southern African HIV Clinicians Society: Senior Project Manager

Closing Date: 31 March 2017



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