

# HST Bulletin



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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **Open letter on the SDGs: a robust measure for universal health coverage is essential**

*Di McIntyre, Martin McKee, Dina Balabanova, Chris Atim, K. Srinath Reddy, Walaiporn Patcharanarumol  
The Lancet | Published: 15 November 2016.*

We write as members of the health, academic, and, research community to urge you to agree on a refinement of SDG Indicator 3.8.2, which is on financial risk protection for universal health coverage (UHC), when you meet this week at the IAEG-SDGs meeting in Geneva.

### **The drive for universal healthcare in South Africa: views from private general practitioners**

*Rebecca Surender, Robert Van Niekerk, Bridget Hannah, Lucie Allan, Maylene Shung-King  
Healthy Policy and Planning | Published: November 2016.*

Despite concerted attempts in South Africa (SA) since 1994 to improve the health status of historically disadvantaged populations, the healthcare system continues to be fragmented and unequal, with the majority of the population relying on a public sector which has significantly less resources than its private equivalent. In order to address these inequalities, the SA government has launched the most radical and ambitious reform strategy to date—the introduction of a National Health Insurance (NHI) (RSA and DoH 2011, ‘Green Paper’).

### **Insights into Adherence among a Cohort of Adolescents Aged 12–20 Years in South Africa: Reported Barriers to Antiretroviral Treatment**

*Mhairi Maskew, Matthew P. Fox, Denise Evans, Darshini Govindasamy, Lise Jamieson,  
Given Maletse, et al*

*Journal of Aids / Research and Treatment / Published: November 2016.*

Adolescents experience disproportionately high rates of poor ART outcomes compared to adults despite prolonged use of antiretroviral therapy in Southern African treatment programs, presenting a significant challenge to national attempts to meet the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets for 2020. This cohort study among adolescents aged 12–20 years accessing ART care at two urban public-sector clinics in Johannesburg between September and November 2013 aimed to identify factors potentially associated with poor attendance at clinic visits.

### **The effect of socioeconomic disadvantage on strategies to end the AIDS epidemic**

*Robert S Hogg, Cathy Puskas, Surita Parashar, Julio S G Montaner*

*The Lancet / Published: 12 October 2016.*

As Henry David Thoreau, American author, poet, and philosopher, once stated, “The price of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it”. In the case of life expectancy, differences in the number of additional years above the average that a person of a specific age will live depends on a person's ability to access economic (eg, income), cultural (eg, education), and social (eg, social supports) capital within a society. Those with less, relative to their income or social status, often pay the most for the length of life they live. Thus, when assessing life expectancy, the price of anything is everything.

### **Predictors of nurses’ and midwives’ intentions to provide maternal and child healthcare services to adolescents in South Africa**

*Kim Jonas, Priscilla Reddy, Bart van den Borne, Ronel Sewpaul, Anam Nyembezi, Pamela Naidoo, Rik Crutzen*

*BioMed Central / Published: 15 November 2016.*

Adolescent mothers are at a much higher risk for maternal mortality compared to mothers aged 20 years and above. Newborns born to adolescent mothers are also more likely to have low birth weight, with the risk of long-term effects such as early onset of adult diabetes than newborns of older mothers. Few studies have investigated the determinants of adequate quality maternal and child healthcare services to pregnant adolescents. This study was conducted to gain an understanding of nurses’ and midwives’ intentions to provide maternal and child healthcare and family planning services to adolescents in South Africa.

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## **RECENT NEWS**

### **The challenges to public health under the Trump administration**

*Washington Post / Published: 21 November 2016.*

Some of the greatest challenges facing the United States aren't terrorists or trade deficits, but public health threats. Experts are urging the next administration to support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its international collaborations to protect people from preventable deaths.

### **Women can now inject themselves with 'the shot' at home**

*Bhekisisa / Published: 23 November 2016.*

Regular visits to clinics for injectable contraception could soon be a thing of the past as new research may pave the way for take-home jabs.

### **Community Health Workers protest for better working conditions**

*Health-e News / Published: 12 November 2016.*

Community health care workers, unhappy about how they are treated by the Gauteng Department of Health, took to the streets on Tuesday and marched to the department's offices to raise their concerns.

### **Giving women HIV self-tests promotes male partner testing**

*Medical Brief / Published: 16 November 2016.*

Providing pregnant and postpartum women in sub-Saharan Africa with multiple HIV self-tests can make it

more likely their male partners will be tested for HIV compared to a standard approach of distributing invitation cards for clinic-based testing, according to a randomised trial by Harsha Thirumurthy of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and colleagues.

### **Six ways ARVs can help to end Aids by 2030**

*Bhekisisa* | Published: 22 November 2016.

The HIV world today looks completely different than in 2004 when the South African government introduced free HIV treatment. The drugs are easier to take, have fewer side-effects and can also be used to prevent people from getting infected with HIV. Here's what we've got and how we can use antiretrovirals (ARVs) to help end Aids by 2030.

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## **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

### **HIV and The Law In South Africa: A Practitioner's Guide**

*LexisNexis* | Published: 11 November 2016

The publication includes contributions from some of the foremost practitioners and theorists in the field. The book is intended to serve as a useful resource to enable legal practitioners to provide professional, efficient, quality legal advice to people living with HIV (PLHIV).

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## **PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

### **Strategising national health in the 21st century: a handbook**

*WHO* | Published: November 2016.

This handbook is designed as a resource for providing up-to-date and practical guidance on national health planning and strategising for health.

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## **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **World AIDS Day 2016**

1 December 2016

### **African Society for Laboratory Medicine Conference**

3 - 8 December 2016

Cape Town Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa

### **2016 2<sup>nd</sup> World Breastfeeding Conference**

11 - 14 December 2016

Birchwood Conference Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

### **Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) 2017**

13 - 16 February 2017

Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, Washington, USA

### **Global Evidence Summit**

12 -16 September 2016

Cape Town Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

### **Health Systems Trust: Nurse Clinician**

Closing Date: 25 November 2016

### **Health Systems Trust: Research Intern**

Closing Date: 30 November 2016

### **Abraham Kriel Childcare: Registered Nurse**

Closing Date: 2 December 2016

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