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HST IN THE NEWS

South African Health Review 2020: Call for Abstracts

Closing Date: 31 October 2019.

The call for abstracts for the 2020 edition of the SAHR will close next week. The theme for this edition is *equitable health care for people with disabilities in South Africa*. Papers offering fresh insights into health systems strengthening efforts supporting the realisation of universal health coverage in South Africa are also particularly sought. Overall, the 2020 edition will represent an evidence base which can be used to strengthen health systems and services and to inform future policy development in disability and health in South Africa. Preference will be given to manuscripts that take into account the complexities and opportunities for developing and sustaining inclusive health systems, especially in the context of universal health coverage.

ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Reasons for requesting removal of the hormonal implant, Implanon NXT, at an urban reproductive health clinic in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

South African Medical Journal | Published: 30 September 2019.

I Beesham, J Smit, M Beksiniska, M Panday, V Makatini, S Evans

The contraceptive implant, Implanon NXT, was introduced in South Africa (SA) in 2014 and, although it offers multiple advantages, users may request to have it removed early for several reasons. The number of insertions of Implanon NXT has declined in SA and there have been concerns about early removals. [The objective of this study was] to gain an understanding of patterns of Implanon NXT use, reasons for requesting removal and duration of use at the time of requesting removal.

Figures of the dead: A decade of tuberculosis mortality registrations in South Africa

South African Medical Journal | Published: 30 September 2019.

M Loveday, Y N Mzobe, Y Pillay, P Barron

South Africa (SA) is committed to reducing tuberculosis (TB) mortality rates in line with the World Health Organization's End TB Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets. From mortality reports released by Statistics South Africa, this study analysed reported TB mortality in SA from 2006 to 2016 to inform our understanding of TB mortality and the development of strategies needed to attain the SDG targets.

Care pathways during a child's final illness in rural South Africa: Findings from a social autopsy study

PlosOne | Published: 22 October 2019.

Jessica Price, Merlin Willcox, Chodziwadziwa Whiteson Kabudula, Kobus Herbst, Lisa Hinton, Kathleen Kahn, Anthony Harnden

Half of under-5 deaths in South Africa occur at home, however the reasons remain poorly described and data on the care pathways during fatal childhood illness is limited. This study aimed to better describe care-seeking behavior in fatal childhood illness and to assess barriers to healthcare and modifiable factors that contribute to under-5 deaths in rural South Africa.

South African stakeholders' knowledge of community-based rehabilitation

Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine | Published: 25 September 2019.

Sarah Rule, Anton Roberts, Pamela McLaren, Susan Philpott

Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) is a complex concept and strategy that has been implemented in diverse ways globally and in South Africa. Internationally, some stakeholders have described CBR as confusing, and this may influence implementation. A southern African study reports that there is

insufficient evidence of the understanding of CBR in the region to influence training, policy and practice. The aim of this study was to investigate South African stakeholders' knowledge of CBR.

Evaluation of a health system intervention to improve virological management in an antiretroviral programme at a municipal clinic in central Durban

Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine | Published: 26 September 2019.

Christie M Cloete, Jane Hampton, Terusha Chetty, Thando Ngomane, Elizabeth Spooner, Linda MG Zako, Shabashini Reddy, Tarylee Reddy, et al

With the largest antiretroviral therapy (ART) programme globally, demand for effective HIV management is increasing in South Africa. While viral load (VL) testing is conducted, VL follow-up and management are sub-optimal. The objective of this study was to address gaps in the VL cascade to improve VL testing and management. Antiretroviral therapy records were sampled for an in-depth review. The study team then reviewed individual records, focusing on ART management, virological suppression and retention.

Comparative cost analysis of point-of-care versus laboratory-based testing to initiate and monitor HIV treatment in South Africa

PlosOne | Published: 16 October 2019.

Kate Simeon, Monisha Sharma, Jienchi Dorward, Jessica Naidoo, Ntuthu Dlamini, Pravikrishnen Moodley, Natasha Samsunder, Ruanne V. Barnabas, et al

The number of people living with HIV (PLHIV) in need of treatment monitoring in low-and-middle-income countries has been rapidly expanding, placing an increasing burden on laboratories. Promising new point-of-care (POC) test have the potential to reduce laboratory workloads, but the implementation cost is uncertain. We sought to estimate the costs of decentralized POC testing compared to centralized laboratory testing for PLHIV initiating treatment in South Africa.

A systematic review of qualitative evidence on factors enabling and deterring uptake of HIV self-testing in Africa

BMC Public Health | Published: 15 October 2019.

Bernard Njau, Christopher Covin, Esther Lisasi, Damian Damian, Declare Mushi, Andrew Boule, Catherine Mathews

More than 40% of adults in Sub-Saharan Africa are unaware of their HIV status. HIV self-testing (HIVST) is a novel approach with a potential to increase uptake of HIV testing and linkage to care for people who test HIV positive. We explored HIV stakeholder's perceptions about factors that enable or deter the uptake of HIV self-testing and experiences of self-testing of adult users in Africa.

The burden of oral conditions among adolescents living with HIV at a clinic in Johannesburg, South Africa

PlosOne | Published: 16 October 2019.

Yolanda Malele Kolisa, Veerasamy Yengopal, Khumbo Shumba, Jude Igumbor

There are inconsistent reports on the prevalence of oral conditions and their associated factors among

adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV). The current inconsistencies may hinder the development of clear guidelines on the prevention and treatment of oral conditions among ALHIV. This study provides an update on oral conditions and their associated factors in a cohort of South African ALHIV and receiving routine HIV treatment services at a Johannesburg HIV wellness clinic.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

The health department responds to Bhekisisa's HIV testing article: 'Services are adequate'

Bhekisisa | 22 October 2019.

Earlier this month [Bhekisisa] published some of the damning results from a leaked report on the state of HIV testing in South Africa. Here's the health department's deputy director general for communicable and non-communicable diseases' response.

Private hospitals appeal to nursing council to let them train more nurses - move to restrict numbers also threatens target that the sector train 50,000 nurses over the next eight years

Business Day | 23 October 2019.

Private hospitals have appealed to the SA Nursing Council (SANC) to allow them to train more nurses, warning that the decision to restrict numbers threatens the pipeline of future nurses.

Universal Health Coverage Passes Key Global Milestone

World Health Organisation | 17 October 2019.

The World Health Organization today welcomed a new Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Resolution on achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2030. The resolution, adopted at the IPU Assembly in Belgrade, Serbia, comes one month after heads of state agreed a high-level United Nations Political Declaration on UHC in New York.

G20 Health Ministers Issue Detailed Declaration On Global Health Goals

Health Policy Watch | 22 October 2019.

A G20 Health Ministers Declaration, issued after a two-day meeting of ministers in Okayama Japan, has endorsed rapid achievement of universal health coverage, a more effective support of healthy ageing, increased attention to health emergencies and their underlying causes such as poverty and weak health systems, and more forceful action on antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

South Africa: 63,000 TB deaths in 2018

Daily Maverick | 21 October 2019.

South Africa is one of only seven countries estimated to have above 500 cases of tuberculosis per

100,000 people — the others being Central African Republic, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, North Korea and the Philippines.

How Africa's religious leaders are changing sexual health narrative

Standard Digital | 20 October 2019.

Religious leaders have shunned sexual and reproductive health discussions at the pulpit for decades – a situation that is changing. This is as 45 per cent of health services in Sub-Saharan Africa are provided by faith-based organisations. Anglican Provinces of Africa General Secretary Reverend Canon Grace Kaiso says the turnabout is from the conviction that all families – regardless of their religious beliefs – are entitled to lead healthy lives.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Wellcome Global Monitor 2018: How does the world feel about science and health?

Wellcome | 19 June 2019.

The Wellcome Global Monitor is the world's largest study into how people around the world think and feel about science and major health challenges. It surveys over 140,000 people from more than 140 countries.

Key findings

- Doctors and nurses are most trusted for health advice.
- 73% of people worldwide would trust a doctor or nurse more than any other source of health advice, including family, friends, religious leaders or famous people.
- Across the world, people with the lowest household income have less confidence in hospitals and healthcare systems.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Global tuberculosis report 2019

World Health Organisation | 17 October 2019.

WHO has published a global TB report every year since 1997. The main aim of the report is to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the TB epidemic, and of progress in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the disease, at global, regional and country levels. This is done in the context of recommended global TB strategies and targets endorsed by WHO's Member States, broader development goals set by the United Nations (UN) and targets set in the political declaration at the first UN high-level meeting on TB (held in September 2018).

South African Health Products Regulatory Authority Annual Report 2018/19

SAHPRA | 15 October 2019.

A presentation on the work of the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority, as delivered to the Health Portfolio committee in October 2019.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Principles of Tuberculosis Care and Prevention: Translating Knowledge to Action

16-25 March 2020

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

International Social and Behavior Change Communication Summit

30 March-3 April 2020

Marrakech, Morocco

World Health Summit Regional Meeting: Africa

27-28 April 2020

Kampala, Uganda

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Programme Support Officers

Closing date: 28 October 2019.

SFH: VMMC Provincial Lead

Closing Date: 31 October 2019

SFH: District Coordinator

Closing Date: 31 October 2019

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