

**HST Bulletin 16 August 2024**[View this email in your browser](#)

## CATEGORIES

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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **Factors related to the utilization of digital adherence technologies in tuberculosis care: A qualitative study among adults in DS-TB treatment, health care providers and other key actors in Tanzania**

*Plos Global Health* | 9 August 2024

*Bianca Gonçalves Tasca, Andrew Mganga, Chung Lam Leung, Lucas Shilugu, Christopher Pell, et al.*

Numerous challenges, such as lengthy treatment course, side effects, and distance to healthcare facilities contribute to suboptimal Tuberculosis (TB) treatment completion. Digital adherence technologies (DATs), such as smart pillboxes and medication labels, could be an alternative to facilitate TB treatment continuation. In-depth interviews with people undergoing treatment for drug susceptible TB, health care providers (HCPs) and other key actors were conducted to evaluate their experiences with DATs in ten health facilities across four different regions in Tanzania. This study is part of a multi country cluster randomized trials conducted under the ASCENT consortium.

### **Antiretroviral therapy retention, adherence, and clinical outcomes among postpartum women with HIV in Nigeria**

*Plos One* | 9 August 2024

*Clara M. Young, Charlotte A. Chang, Atiene S. Sagay, Godwin Imade, Olabanjo O. Ogunsola, et al.*

While research involving pregnant women with HIV has largely focused on the antepartum and intrapartum periods, few studies in Nigeria have examined the clinical outcomes of these women postpartum. This study aimed to evaluate antiretroviral therapy retention, adherence, and viral suppression among postpartum women in Nigeria. This retrospective clinical data analysis included women with a delivery record at the antenatal HIV clinic at Jos University Teaching Hospital between 2013 and 2017. Descriptive statistics quantified proportions retained, adherent ( $\geq 95\%$  medication possession ratio), and virally suppressed up to 24 months postpartum.

### **Healthcare worker perspectives on adaptations to differentiated anti-retroviral**

### **therapy delivery during COVID-19 in South Africa: A qualitative inquiry**

*Plos Global Health* | 9 August 2024

*Kwena Thaku, Lindani Msimango, Yukteshwar Sookrajh, Cecilia Milford, Andy Gray, et al.*

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the South African Centralized Chronic Medicines Dispensing and Distribution (CCMDD) programme, adapted to include extended 12-month antiretroviral therapy (ART) prescriptions, 3-months ART refills and earlier eligibility criteria at 6-months after ART initiation. We aimed to explore the experiences of healthcare workers (HCWs) in implementing these adaptations, and to understand the overall impact of COVID-19 on CCMDD. We conducted semi-structured in-depth interviews with HCWs in eThekweni District clinics, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed, translated, and analysed thematically. Between 18 February and 13 December 2022, we conducted 21 interviews with nurses, doctors, pharmacists, clinic managers and a community pick-up-point staff member.

### **Gay and Bisexual Men's Perceptions about a Potential HIV Vaccine within a Post-COVID-19 Era: A Qualitative Study**

*AIDS and Behavior* | 10 August 2024

*Alexa B. D'Angelo, Michelle H. Dearolf, Jennifer MacMartin, Mathew Elder, Denis Nash, et al.*

To end the HIV epidemic, there is need for targeted strategies to reduce HIV incidence for those most vulnerable, including an HIV vaccine. This study seeks to understand the perceptions that non-PrEP using gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) have about a potential HIV vaccine, while contextualizing their perspectives within the context of heightened vaccine hesitancy that has emerged since the COVID-19 pandemic. Between March and May of 2022, GBMSM (N = 20) participated in in-depth interviews, which assessed their perceptions about an HIV vaccine. Interviews were analysed using a codebook approach to thematic analysis. We oversampled for those unvaccinated against COVID-19 as a proxy for vaccine hesitation.

### **Persistent Depression and Suicidal Ideation in People Living with HIV in Tanzania: A Longitudinal Cohort Study**

*AIDS and Behavior* | 10 August 2024

*Megan Willkens, Salama Fadhil, Karl Reis, Matiko Mwita, Grace Ruselu, et al.*

Suicidal ideation and depression are common in people living with HIV (PLWH) in sub-Saharan Africa, but longitudinal data on their persistence in the modern antiretroviral therapy era are lacking. We examined the prevalence of persistent suicidal ideation and depression symptoms using the PHQ-9 in a well-characterized cohort of PLWH and HIV-uninfected community controls. Multivariable logistic regression models were used to determine the relationship between HIV and persistent depression and suicidal ideation. Persistent suicidal ideation was more common in PLWH but there was no difference in persistent depression by HIV status. Approximately one out of five participants with depression at baseline had persistent depression after 12–24 months and only about one out of four participants reporting suicidal ideation at baseline had persistent suicidal ideation after 12–24 months.

### **A conceptualization and psychometric evaluation of positive psychological outcome measures used in adolescents and young adults living with HIV: A mixed scoping and systematic review**

*Plos Global Health* | 12 August 2024

*Jermaine M. Dambi, Frances M. Cowan, Faith Martin, Sharon Sibanda, Victoria Simms, et al.*

Sub-Saharan Africa bears the greatest burden of HIV, with comorbid mental conditions highly prevalent in people living with HIV. It is important to evaluate the mental health of adolescents and young adults living with HIV (AYALHIV) comprehensively by measuring both negative and positive psychological constructs. There has been a proliferation of interest in positive psychological outcome measures, but the evidence of their psychometric robustness is fragmented. This review sought to: 1) Identify positive psychological outcomes and corresponding outcome measures used in AYALHIV in sub-Saharan Africa. 2) Critically appraise the psychometrics of the identified outcome measures.

### **Sociocultural perceptions of physical activity and dietary habits for hypertension control: voices from adults in a rural sub-district of South Africa**

*BMC Public Health* | 13 August 2024

*Kganetso Sekome, Francesc Xavier Gómez-Olivé, Lauren B. Sherar, Dale W. Esliger & Hellen Myezwa*

Over half of adults from rural South Africa are hypertensive. Apart from pharmaceutical treatment, lifestyle changes such as increasing physical activity and reducing dietary salt have been strongly advocated for the control of hypertension. However, the control rates of hypertension for adults in rural South Africa are low. In this paper we explore whether this is due to the recommended lifestyle intervention not aligning with the individual's socio-cultural determinants of behaviour change.

### **Factors influencing HIV testing uptake in Sub-Saharan Africa: a comprehensive multi-level analysis using demographic and health survey data (2015–2022)**

*BMC Infectious Diseases* | 13 August 2024

*Kebede Gemeda Sabo, Beminata Lemma Seifu, Bizunesh Fantahun Kase, Hiwot Altaye Asebe, Zufan Alamrie Asmare, et al.*

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a global health concern, causing over 35 million deaths, with 97% occurring in developing nations, particularly impacting Sub-Saharan Africa. While HIV testing is crucial for early treatment and prevention, existing research often focuses on specific groups, neglecting general adult testing rates. This study aims to identify predictors of HIV testing uptake among adults in Sub-Saharan Africa.

### **'Not taking medications and taking medication, it was the same thing:' perspectives of antiretroviral therapy among people hospitalised with advanced HIV disease**

*BMC Infectious Diseases* | 13 August 2024

*Marian Loveday, Sindisiwe Hlangu, Pariva Manickchand, Thiloshini Govender & Jennifer Furin*

Despite HIV's evolution to a chronic disease, the burden of advanced HIV disease (AHD, defined as a CD4 count of < 200 cells/uL or WHO clinical Stage 3 or 4 disease), remains high among People Living with HIV (PLHIV) who have previously been prescribed antiretroviral therapy (ART). As little is known about the experiences of patients hospitalised with AHD, this study sought to discern social forces driving hospitalisation with AHD. Understanding such forces could inform strategies to reduce HIV-related morbidity and mortality.

### **Characterization of mosquito host-biting networks of potential Rift Valley fever virus vectors in north-eastern KwaZulu-Natal province, South Africa**

*BMC Parasites & Vectors* | 13 August 2024

*Takalani I. Makhanthisa, Milehna M. Guarido, Alan Kemp, Jacqueline Weyer, Melinda K. Rostal, et al.*

Rift Valley fever virus (RVFV) is a zoonotic mosquito-borne virus with serious implications for livestock health, human health, and the economy in Africa, and is suspected to be endemic in north-eastern KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), South Africa. The vectors of RVFV in this area are poorly known, although several species, such as *Aedes* (*Neomelanicion*) *mcintoshi*, *Aedes* (*Neomelanicion*) *circumluteolus*, *Aedes* (*Aedimorphus*) *durbanensis*, and *Culex* (*Lasioconops*) *poicilipes* may be involved. The aim of the study was to determine the vertebrate blood meal sources of potential RVFV mosquito vectors in north-eastern KZN and to characterize the host-biting network.

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## **RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

### **Joining forces: Advancing implementation of commitments for women's, children's and adolescents' health in Malawi**

*PMNCH* | 8 August 2024

A multi-sectoral and multi-constituency audience of over 70 participants gathered in Lilongwe and online for the launch of the Malawi Digital Advocacy Hub to support the implementation of national commitments to women's, children's, and adolescents' health. The launch was convened by the Ministry of Health's Reproductive Health Directorate in conjunction with Amref Health Africa, Malawi.

### **Almost 10% of women infected during pregnancy develop long COVID**

*Healio* | 8 August 2024

Long COVID prevalence was 9.3% at a median of 10.3 months after first SARS-CoV-2 infection. The most common symptoms for women with long COVID were postexertional malaise, fatigue and gastrointestinal symptoms.

### **Unlocking potential: Why women leaders are essential for advancing global health**

*Bizcommunity | 8 August 2024*

Unlocking the full potential of women in pharmaceuticals paves the way for groundbreaking innovations, more inclusive clinical trials, and a transformative impact on global health, writes Wendy Cupido, vice president at the Innovative Pharmaceutical Association of South Africa (Ipsa) and general manager at Roche South Africa.

### **Nigeria recorded 1,400 new HIV infections weekly in 2023 —NACA**

*Nigerian Tribune | 8 August 2024*

The Director-General of the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), Dr Temitope Ilori, has said that 1,400 new HIV infections were recorded weekly and 50,000 AIDS-related deaths were recorded in Nigeria in 2023. Dr Ilori made this known at the general meeting and scientific conference of the Medical and Dental Consultant Association of Nigeria at the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex (OAUTHC), Ile-Ife, in Osun State, with the subtheme “Current Concept of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria: The Policy and Funding.”

### **Breaking barriers: African women champion women's health rights**

*The Sun | 9 August 2024*

Across Africa, a new generation of female leaders is emerging, determined to dismantle the barriers hindering women's health. From the challenges of menstrual health to the complexities of maternal care and genetic diseases, these women are at the forefront of driving positive change.

### **Beginning of End of HIV Epidemic?**

*The Good Men Project | 9 August 2024*

Researchers may have found a powerful new preventative against the AIDS virus, which has killed more than 40 million people since the epidemic began in 1981. In late June, a trial of lenacapavir, an existing anti-HIV drug used to reduce infection, produced an astonishing result: None of the more than 2,100 young female participants in the test contracted the deadly virus.

### **Targeting women's health can boost the economy**

*George Herald | 9 August 2024*

Women spend 25% more of their working lives dealing with health challenges than men do,<sup>[i]</sup> but targeted support by employers for women's health needs can improve their productivity and quality of life – boosting company bottom lines and economic growth. More than half of the female health burden occurs during their working-age years. Global GDP could be estimated to be raised by US\$1 trillion by 2040 by addressing women's 'health gap' to enable greater workplace participation and productivity.

### **Infectious diseases spike when kids return to school – here's what you can do about it**

*The Conversation | 9 August 2024*

Ready or not, back-to-school season is here, and kids will be bringing home more than homework. They'll be carrying germs, too. These viruses and bacteria will be agents that cause the common cold, influenza, norovirus, COVID-19, strep throat and more. There's a reason why boxes of tissues and sanitizing wipes show up on most school supply lists.

### **Yvette Raphael, the HIV prevention advocate calling for the full package**

*Health-E News | 9 August 2024*

This article is part of an African Alliance series celebrating 25 years of the inner condom in South Africa and the people who helped to establish the world's biggest state-funded inner condom project. Activist Yvette Raphael first heard about the inner condom in the early 2000s. It was shortly after she was diagnosed with HIV, when she became a human rights activist who fights for young women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) communities. Back then, hundreds of thousands of South Africans were dying of AIDS each year. Raphael and her fellow activists were tasked with raising



awareness about the inner condom, which held the promise of choice for women whose partners weren't keen on using protection.

### **Alarming statistics on HIV positive women in Bulawayo**

*Southern eye | 10 August 2024*

APPROXIMATELY 90% of women aged between 16 and 50 plus tested for HIV in Bulawayo during the month of June this year tested positive of the virus amid concerns over a surge in cases in the Matabeleland region. A Bulawayo City Council report showed that at least 2 641 women tested positive for HIV from the 2 984 that had undergone testing.

### **Empowering Black Women Through HIV Prevention**

*AJMC | 11 August 2024*

For the recent AIDS 2024 conference from the International AIDS Society, we spoke with Nishita Dsouza, PhD, MPH, postdoctoral research fellow in the Columbia University School of Social Work Social Intervention Group. Her research priorities focus on the creation and implementation of livable communities, systems, and environments for minoritized populations and encouraging the dissemination of evidence-based findings and translational research across sectors that include nonhealth sectors, transportation, and housing.

### **Access to healthcare services important in the fight against HIV/Aids**

*springs-advertiser | 11 August 2024*

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF)'s milestone of supporting over two million individuals living with HIV highlights the critical importance of global health equity and access to essential healthcare services. The foundation recently celebrated this milestone at the Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre. "We are thrilled to celebrate AHF's support for over two million patients globally. South Africa, the first country to join the global programme in 2002, has played a pivotal role in reaching this milestone," said Dr Kate Ssamula, country programme director for AHF South Africa.

### **Covid-19 restriction and screen time have increased developmental delays in kids**

*The star | 12 August 2024*

THE Covid-19 pandemic may be over but unfortunately, some children are still reeling from its after-effects. Doctors are seeing an increasing number of kids with developmental delays in their practices, and while this can be attributed to many factors, the pandemic, along with its restrictions on movement and socialisation, seems to have played a major role. Consultant general and developmental paediatrician Associate Professor Dr Norazlin Kamal Nor says while the country doesn't have data on autism and general developmental delay (GDD) prevalence, she is seeing more patients in her practice with those conditions.

### **Why we don't have long-acting HIV treatment in South Africa**

*Spotlight | 12 August 2024*

In South Africa, HIV treatment means taking one or more antiretroviral tablets a day. People in some other countries have the additional option of treatment in the form of two injections administered every two months. We unpack why long-acting HIV treatment is not available in South Africa and ask why the push for HIV prevention jabs has been so much stronger than that for HIV treatment jabs.

### **City of Cape Town reports drop in women's use of family planning services**

*Sowetan Live | 12 August 2024*

Cape Town saw a decrease in the number of women accessing family planning methods during the 2023/2024 financial year. The number of women who used the City of Cape Town's health facilities for family planning decreased by 13,465 from 343,440 the previous year to 329,975.

### **'Zika-like' mosquito-borne virus has spread into Europe, health officials warn**

*Fox News | 12 August 2024*

Cases of the Oropouche virus (OROV) emerging in Europe have health officials on high alert. As of the end of July, 19 cases had been reported with 12 in Spain, five in Italy and two in Germany, per the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. The disease is typically spread through bites from mosquitoes and midges (small flies, particularly the *Culicoides paraensis* species), according to the U.S.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

## **Menopause Increases Risk of Sexually Transmitted Infections**

*Clinical Advisor | 12 August 2024*

Diagnoses for sexually transmitted infections, or STIs, are increasing in older adults. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports the number of people older than 65 diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis in the US increased about 3-, 5- and sevenfold, respectively, from 2010 to 2023. Data also suggests that women older than 50 are at greater risk for HIV than younger women.

## **Africa: Mpox Outbreak Declared a Public Health Emergency in Africa**

*allAfrica | 13 August 2024*

The African Union's health authority has declared a public health emergency over an mpox outbreak on the continent. "With a heavy heart but with an unyielding commitment to our people, to our African citizens, we declare mpox as [a] public health emergency of continental security," Jean Kaseya, head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), said during an online media briefing on Tuesday.

## **Hepatitis C is an epidemic among South African drug users**

*IOL | 13 August 2024*

The world has come a long way since the early eighties when we first heard about HIV and Aids. Over the past 20 years, efforts to address the HIV/ Aids epidemic have seen significant strides, although more work remains. South Africa has been among the United Nations member countries committed to improving the quality of life for all its citizens.

## **WHO donates 65 Beds and WASH supplies to strengthen Tanzania's ongoing cholera outbreak response**

*WHO | 13 August 2024*

The World Health Organization (WHO) has handed over 65 beds together with Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) supplies to the Government of Tanzania to strengthen the country's ongoing response to cholera outbreaks in the country. Cholera remains a major public health emergency globally, particularly in the Africa Region. Tanzania, like many other countries in the Africa Region, have been grappling with recurrent cholera outbreaks.

## **They arrived in Cuba with a suitcase and returned to SA as doctors. We followed 5 to see where they work today**

*Bhekisisa | 13 August 2024*

Mzulungile Nodikida, Sanele Madela, Bongile Mabilane, Nhlakanipho Gumede and Godisamang Kegakilwe have one thing in common: they studied medicine in Cuba. Since its establishment in 1996, the Cuba-SA programme has been knocked for being impractical, too expensive, and for producing inferior doctors. But today, these five doctors all occupy senior leadership positions in the health sector.

## **Zimbabwe: 'I Was 13 When I Was Diagnosed With HIV'**

*allAfrica | 13 August 2024*

"Receiving this news at such a young age was a life-challenging experience that has shaped my life since. This was a harsh reality which I had to start dealing with from a young age," says Tafadzwa Mapininga. Mapininga uses her own inspiring story to advocate for young people living with HIV."In Zimbabwe, like countries across the region, children, adolescents, and young people continue to inherit the weight of HIV," she said. "But with Zvandiri on my side, I feel empowered and have found the means to pave a positive path for my life."

## **30 Years Ago, Pregnant Women of Color Fought for a Major Breakthrough in HIV Prevention**

*The Body | 14 August 2024*

Today, birthing parents who are on antiretroviral therapy rarely pass HIV to their children. The science proving that this was even possible came out of a history-changing study that ended early for ethical reasons. Shockingly, that trial was almost felled before it even began. How that happened remains to this day one of the most bitter confrontations in HIV research history.

## **New Western Cape health MEC Mireille Wenger says child health is near her heart**

*Spotlight | 14 August 2024*

Given the severe fiscal challenges facing South Africa's public health sector, it is perhaps unsurprising that on June 13 Western Cape Premier Alan Winde selected Mireille Wenger to take over in the province's health hot seat. The newly appointed MEC of health and wellness in the Western Cape, Wenger brings to the table two years' experience as MEC of finance and economic opportunities – a demonstrated flourish for pragmatism and a head for numbers.

## **Diabetes is an escalating public health crisis in South Africa**

*IOL | 14 August 2024*

Diabetes-related mortality is on the rise in South Africa, and the management of the condition remains suboptimal, even within the private healthcare sector – yet despite the high burden on healthcare resources, numerous cases go undiagnosed. Against this backdrop, the 2023 Diabetes Summit Report and Recommendations were recently presented to the National Department of Health following the 2023 Diabetes Summit held at the University of Pretoria's (UP) Future Africa Campus late last year.

## **Cape women encouraged to use City healthcare services for Women's Month**

*IOL | 14 August 2024*

The City of Cape Town's Directorate for Community Services and Health calls on women across the city to prioritise their health this Women's Month. In a recent statement, the Department reiterated various offerings offered by its local healthcare clinics to support women's health. According to the local municipality, key indicators for the last financial year revealed that fewer women accessed family planning services and Basic Antenatal Care (BANC), despite the number of women who signed up for cervical smears among other healthcare services having a marginal increase.

## **How does Mpox spread and what is the risk to the rest of the world?**

*Sky News | 14 August 2024*

Africa's top health body has declared a public health emergency after more than 15,000 cases and 461 deaths were reported on the continent this year. There is a 160% increase in cases compared with the same period last year, while deaths have jumped by around 19%. The continent's top health body has declared a public health emergency as it tries to limit infections, with more than 15,000 cases and 461 deaths reported this year. But what is Mpox, what are the symptoms, how is it treated and what's being done about the outbreak?

## **WHO declares Mpox in Africa as an international public health emergency**

*City Press | 15 August 2024*

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the ongoing Mpox outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and its spread to other African countries as a public health emergency. This decision was made by WHO director-general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, following the advice of an International Health Regulations Emergency Committee composed of independent experts.

## **A dose of their own medicine: Should SA force big drug makers to let others make insulin pens too?**

*Bhekisisa | 15 August 2024*

Novo Nordisk's partnership with Aspen aims to produce enough insulin for 1.1-million people in Africa by 2026 — in vials. The deal doesn't tackle the real issue, though: South Africans have a right to use insulin pens, but these are running out in public hospitals because of Novo Nordisk's decision to stop supplying it to the health department. Some critics say the government should use a legal mechanism called compulsory licences to get copies of the insulin pens made by alternative manufacturers.

## **Major ransomware attack exposes vulnerabilities in South Africa's public health sector**

*IOL | 15 August 2024*

In late June 2024, South Africa's National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS) suffered a severe data breach due to a ransomware attack, marking one of the most significant cyber incidents in the country's public health sector. The attack compromised approximately 1.2 terabytes of data, including sensitive

third-party, client, and patient information.

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## TRAINING AND RESOURCES

### FORMER GOLD MINeworkERS AND THEIR FAMILIES ENCOURGED TO LODGE COMPENSATION CLAIMS FOR SILICOSIS AND TB

The Tshiamiso Trust is on a drive to ensure that all potentially eligible former gold mineworkers and their families, know about their right to lodge a claim for compensation, and are given the opportunity to do so. The Tshiamiso Trust was established in 2020 to give effect to the settlement agreement reached between six mining companies and claimant attorneys in the historic silicosis and TB class action. The companies are African Rainbow Minerals, Anglo American South Africa, AngloGold Ashanti, Harmony Gold, Sibanye Stillwater and Gold Fields. To date, the Trust has compensated over 18,000 beneficiaries, to the value of R1.67 billion. The Trust is committed to ensuring that all eligible ex-mineworkers and their families get the compensation they deserve, and appeals for your assistance in reaching potential claimants.

To lodge a claim:

- Mineworkers must have carried out risk work at one of the qualifying gold mines during the qualifying periods between 12 March 1965 and 10 December 2019, as indicated in schedule F of the Trust Deed.
- Living mineworkers must have permanent lung impairment from silicosis or TB that they contracted while doing risk work at these mines.
- For deceased mineworkers, there must either be evidence that they DIED FROM work-related TB within a year of leaving the mine if it's a TB claim, OR evidence that they had silicosis or died from silicosis if it's a silicosis claim.

For more information and to check eligibility, contact the Trust in one of the following ways:

- Phone the call centre - 080 100 0240
- Send a "Please call me" to 072 557 8077
- Chat on WhatsApp - 00 27 78 504 9004 (select option 12 from the menu)
- Send us a message on Facebook (@silicosissettlement)
- Email [info@tshiamisotrust.com](mailto:info@tshiamisotrust.com)

Claimants can also self-check to see if they are eligible to lodge a claim using an online tool found at <https://www.tshiamisotrust.com/information/status-check/>.

Claimants are reminded to be careful of people impersonating the Trust or promising to help speed up their claims. Only the Tshiamiso Trust can process claims, and this is a FREE service. Claimants must only share their documents with the officials at the lodgement offices and should not pay anyone to help them with their claims.

### Batho Pele Principles

Date: Online

Course Type: Short course

Time commitment: 14 Hours

Delivery method: Self-paced

The Batho Pele initiative, stemming from the White Paper on the Transformation of the Public Service in 1997, aimed to prioritise people's needs in the South African public sector, particularly in healthcare. This



e-learning course targets workers in the healthcare industry and aims to enhance their understanding and implementation of Batho Pele principles and the Patients' Rights Charter. Through modules covering patient experience, attitude, behaviour, and the relationship between principles and rights, participants will develop skills to deliver quality care while considering patients' perspectives. By the end of the course, learners are expected to reflect on their roles in promoting patient-centered care within the framework of Batho Pele and the Patients' Rights Charter, thus contributing to improved healthcare services in South Africa.

<https://academy.emguidance.com/course/batho-pele-principles>

### **Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust 60percent**

HST produces a weekly online publication, 60percent, which keeps subscribers abreast with the latest news and developments pertaining to HIV-related maternal, adolescent, child and youth health. The name 60percent signifies that southern Africa is responding to a feminised HIV/AIDS epidemic, with at least 60% of those living with HIV being women. Subscribe to 60percent by simply visiting HST's website (<https://www.hst.org.za>), scroll to the bottom of the page, hit the SUBSCRIBE button, and follow the prompts. Let's keep you posted!

<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Subscription.aspx>

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## **PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS**

### **Target product profile for tuberculosis diagnosis and detection of drug resistance**

*WHO | 14 August 2024*

The document consolidates two TPPs for TB diagnostics to be carried out at the peripheral level: a newly updated TPP for a rapid test for TB detection and a TPP released in 2021 on next-generation DST for M. tuberculosis. The updated and consolidated TPPs introduces, for the first time, definitions of classes of point-of-care (POC) tests and near-POC tests, and it relates these to the class of low-complexity diagnostic technologies currently recommended.

### **Using creative methods for public health messaging**

*SEI Report | 14 August 2024*

Experiences from an informal settlement in Kenya during the pandemic

### **Call for papers - HIV and TB co-infection – closing date 20 December 2024**

*BMC Infectious Diseases* is calling for submissions to their Collection on HIV and TB co-infection. This collection seeks to explore the complex relationship between tuberculosis (TB) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), two prominent pathogens within the domain of infectious diseases. They invite submissions on co-infection research, interventions, and perspectives from various stakeholders aiming to advance understanding and improve outcomes in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and control of HIV and TB co-infection, covering topics such as epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical management, drug interactions, public health approaches, socioeconomic determinants, therapeutics innovation, community engagement, and health systems strengthening.

<https://bmcinfectdis.biomedcentral.com/>

### **Call for papers - Mental health of adolescents – closing date 7 March 2025**

*BMC Public Health* is calling for submissions to our Collection on mental health of adolescents.

Adolescence is a critical developmental stage marked by significant physical and emotional changes, with mental health being heavily influenced by societal pressures, academic demands, and technology. Rising rates of anxiety, depression, and other mental health disorders among adolescents pose a global concern, affecting both immediate quality of life and long-term well-being. Addressing these issues is essential for fostering healthy development and preventing future psychosocial challenges. This Collection seeks

submissions that explore factors influencing adolescent mental health, such as trends in mental health disorders, risk and protective factors, the impact of digital platforms, school environments, family relationships, barriers to accessing mental health services, and effective intervention strategies.

<https://www.biomedcentral.com/collections/mehado>

### **DISTRICT HEALTH BAROMETER 2022/2023**

The 16th edition of the DHB provides information across a wide range of district health services, covers over 30 indicators and continues to provide policy-makers, health workers, planners, researchers, academics and stakeholders a unique overview of the performance of public health services in South Africa. By providing a detailed analysis of health indicators, trends, and challenges at the district level, the DHB equips district managers and other stakeholders with the data necessary to identify priorities, plan and implement targeted interventions, and monitor progress. This year's Barometer also includes a chapter on air quality and health as we introduce environmental drivers of health in the publication in response to the effects of climate change on health.

As an innovation for the publication, an online interactive dashboard has been developed. This dashboard will include all the indicators that have been compiled in the publication along with accompanying narratives on the key findings for the most recent year of data. It provides userled navigation, with the ability to drill down geographically from provincial to district level. Users will be able to decide what indicators to focus on, over what time window, and at the level of aggregation they choose. There are also timesliders available to navigate the most recent 5 years of data.

<https://www.hst.org.za/publications/Pages/-District-Health-Barometer-2022-2023.aspx>

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## **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **South African Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology**

When: 28 Aug - 1 Sep 2024

Where: Sun City Convention Centre

For more information: <https://sasog.co.za/>

### **International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Conference**

FIP holds the World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, which takes place in a different country each year. In addition to this annual congress, FIP hosts the Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress every three to four years. At the annual congress thousands of pharmacists meet, learn, share and exchange views. Our varied programme, offering something for everyone, makes this congress the premier international event in pharmacy each year. The theme for this year's congress is "Innovating for the Future of Health Care".

When: 1 – 4 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

For more information: <https://capetown2024.fip.org/>

### **8th World One Health Congress (WOHC) 2024**

The Congress foresees four days of an outstanding, exceptional and forward-thinking agenda, which includes parallel tracks addressing one health science, antimicrobial agents and resistance, and science policy interface, amongst others. It will enable discussing major One Health challenges, as well as sharing research data and policy developments. Above all, it will provide a great opportunity to look at global One Health science and policy through an African lens. Through an open call for abstracts, notable work from distinguished scientists and opinion leaders will be disseminated at the world's largest forum dedicated to advancing the One Health agenda and community.

When: 20 – 23 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

For more information: <https://globalohc.org/8WOHC>

## **World Congress of Epidemiology**

When: 24 – 27 September 2024

Where: Cape Town, South Africa

For more information: <https://www.wce2024.org/>

## **Hacking healthcare: African solutions for a global stage**

For the first time, we are curating our content to bring you more flexibility, ample learning opportunities and real value for your time and money. The new deconstructed congress schedule offers a dynamic mix of both CPD-accredited and non-CPD content covering a wider range of topics over 3 days.

When: 22 – 24 October 2024

Where: Cape Town International Convention Centre, South Africa

For more information: <https://www.africahealthexhibition.com/en/attend/congress-registration-website.html>

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# **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

## **Health Information Technology Technical Manager**

**Closing Date for Application: 20 August 2024**

**Go to:** <https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Health-Information-Technology-Technical-Manager--.aspx>

## **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Officers**

**Closing Date for Application: 20 August 2024**

**Go to:** [https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Monitoring-and-Evaluation-\(ME\)-Officers-.aspx](https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Monitoring-and-Evaluation-(ME)-Officers-.aspx)

## **Sub-district Co-ordinator**

**Closing Date for Application: 26 August 2024**

**Go to:** <https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Sub-district-Co-ordinator--.aspx>

## **Programme Manager**

**Closing Date for Application: 26 August 2024**

**Go to :** [https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Programme-Manager-South-Africa-Sustainable-Response-to-HIV,-AIDS-and-TB-\(SA-SURE-PRO\)--and-related-projects.aspx](https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Programme-Manager-South-Africa-Sustainable-Response-to-HIV,-AIDS-and-TB-(SA-SURE-PRO)--and-related-projects.aspx)

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