



health

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Health
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

MEMORANDUM

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TO	: DISTRICT MANAGERS FACILITY MANAGERS, HAST COORDINATORS
FROM	: DR THAMI MAYISE MANAGER: HAST PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
DATE	: 22 August 2012
RE	: INITIATION OF ARV'S TO HIV POSITIVE CHILDREN 5 YEARS AND UNDER IRRESPECTIVE OF CD4 COUNT OR/AND WHO CLINICAL STAGING

Please find the circular regarding the initiation of ARV's to HIV positive children 5 years and under irrespective of CD4 count and WHO clinical staging. Please note that this change is effective immediately and this must be communicated to, and implemented by all initiating facilities including those that are run by partners.

Thank you


DR THAMI MAYISE
MANAGER: HAST PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION



health

Department:
Health
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**HEADS OF HEALTH
DISTRICT MANAGERS
HOSPITAL CEOs AND CLINICAL MANAGERS
HAST CO-ORDINATORS AND CCMT MANAGERS
CHAIRPERSONS OF MINISTERIAL MORTALITY COMMITTEES**

CIRCULAR MINUTE NO 2 OF 2012

**INITIATION OF ANTI RETROVIRAL TREATMENT (ART) TO ALL HIV POSITIVE CHILDREN
AGED 5 YEARS AND UNDER REGARDLESS OF CD4 COUNT AND/OR WHO CLINICAL
STAGING**

1. This circular serves to inform you that all HIV positive children aged 5 years and under should be initiated on ART regardless of CD4 count and/or WHO Clinical Staging with immediate effect.
2. Based on the findings of the recently completed rapid assessment that was conducted in health facilities, country wide, it was discovered that early identification of HIV exposed children is not optimal. Children are still being missed and furthermore, WHO clinical staging is not routinely performed on those children who test HIV positive.
3. National Data also indicates that targets for ART initiation of children are not being met.
4. This intervention should improve health outcomes, child survival and the quality of life of affected children.

**Dr N R DLAMINI
CHIEF DIRECTOR: CHILD, YOUTH AND SCHOOL HEALTH**

DATE: 20/08/2012