

HIV/AIDS AND TB NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER FROM THE NATIONAL HIV/AIDS AND TB PROGRAMME, PRETORIA

Number 40 1 April 2004

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Today marks a significant step forward in the implementation of the HIV/AIDS and STI Strategic Plan for South Africa (2000-2005). Government and civil society have worked hard over the last 4 years to achieve the goals set within the Plan, and more hard work is needed in some areas. With the commencement of ARV therapy in some 27 service points, a significant element of the Strategic Plan is addressed. I thank everyone at the national, provincial, district and facility level for their efforts in this regard.

HIV AND AIDS RED RIBBON RESOURCE CENTRE

Please remember that HIV and AIDS, STI and TB materials can be obtained free of charge from the Red Ribbon Resource Centre. Contact the Centre at (011) 880-0405 to ask for order forms.

27 HIV AND AIDS SERVICE POINTS ACCREDITED

The Department of Health has proceeded with speed in implementing the decisions taken by the meeting of the Minister and Health MECs (Health MinMEC) last week on the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan for Management, Care and Treatment of HIV and AIDS.

Accreditation teams from the National Department of Health have visited health facilities in various provinces for the second time as part of the accreditation process. In line with our undertaking to update the public on every step in the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan, we are today able to announce some of the facilities that have been accredited.

The process to accredit the service sites for the comprehensive plan is revealing to us major gaps in our national health system.

What we still do not have in place are:

- (a) A good patient information system;
- (b) The provincial health information systems that do not talk to each other;
- (c) A comprehensive network of laboratory services at the point of service;
- (d) The recruitment and retention of medical, nursing and pharmacy staff; and
- (e) A baseline survey to establish our starting point.

The Department is concerned about the state of readiness of the service sites and the need to ensure that training on the comprehensive plan is done in line with the recently approved national treatment protocol and guidelines.

Therefore we are making every effort to address these deficiencies and to strengthen the national health system, as a whole.

By and large, some facilities have met the basic requirements for accreditation to provide the interventions listed in the Comprehensive Plan.

These facilities will begin to enroll patients. This includes, amongst others:

- HIV testing, medical examination and performing laboratory tests such as CD4 counts and viral load, to assess the clinical stage and establish the progression of the disease.
- Providing interventions that delay the progression of the disease, including nutritional and micronutrient supplementations, providing complementary and traditional medicines and improving step down referral facilities for patients.
- Ensuring that patients who qualify and prefer antiretroviral therapy are prepared for treatment, which means undergoing a treatment literacy programme to ensure that when they commence treatment, they will adhere to treatment requirements.

The accredited facilities are as follows:

<u>Province</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Hospital</u>
Free State	Lejweleputsha	Bongani
Gauteng	Tshwane	Kalafong
	Johannesburg	Helen Joseph Coronation Johannesburg Chris Hani Baragwanath
KwaZulu-Natal	Ethekwini	King Edward VIII Addington Mahatma Gandhi
	Umzinyathi	Church of Scotland
	Uthungulu	Ngwelezane
	Ilembe	Stanger
	Zululand	Benedictine
	Sisonke	Kokstad (EG Usher Memorial)
Limpopo	Bohlabela	Mapulaneng
	Waterberg	Mokopane
	Vhembe	Tshilidzini
	Sekhukhune	St. Rita
	Capricorn	Mankweng
	Mopali	Letaba
Mpumalanga	Ehlanzeni	Themba Shongwe
	Nkangala	Philadelphia Witbank
	Gert Sibande	Bethal Evander

The accreditation process is still underway. The sites in the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Western Cape will be visited during April. More sites will be announced in due course, as the accreditation team accredits them.

For additional information, please contact Celicia Serenata (serenc@health.gov.za) or Jo-Anne Collinge (collij@health.gov.za)

IMPORTANT DATES AND CONFERENCES

The 2nd South African AIDS Conference is planned for 7-10 June 2005 in Durban (at the Durban ICC).

Interim enquiries can be directed to Ms Tash Govender at tashg@samedical.org or telephone (012) 481-2094 or www.confesa.co.za

4-7 April 2004 7th International AIDS Impact Conference
Cape Town ICC
bridgette@nelsonmandela.org

9-12 May 2004 2nd African Conference on Social Aspects of HIV and AIDS Research
Cape Town ICC
oshisana@hsrc.ac.za

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.doh.gov.za
www.aidsinfo.co.za
www.aidsdirectory.co.za
www.dpp.org.za
www.hst.org.za
www.global-campaign.org (for news on
microbicides)
www.who.int/hiv
www.saavi.org.za
www.afroaidsinfo.org
www.lovelife.org.za
www.childaidservices.org

www.learnscapes.co.za
www.hivan.org.za
www.unaids.org
www.caprisa.org
www.hsrc.ac.za
www.foundation.co.za
www.hivsa.com
www.diflucanpartnership.org
www.tac.org.za

You are also encouraged to share information on other useful websites. Feedback on the Department of Health website would be especially valuable.



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Red Ribbon Resource Centre



For all requests of HIV/AIDS materials (posters etc.), please contact:

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