



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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MANAGERS, DISTRICT CLINICAL SPECIALIST TEAMS, REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRE MANAGERS.**

**CIRCULAR NO 1: CREATING A FRIENDLY AND CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR KEY POPULATIONS
ACCESSING PUBLIC FACILITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA.**

South Africa's national response is guided by its National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB, and STIs (NSP), NSP 2023-2028 which focuses on ending inequalities and breaking down barriers to eliminate the epidemics as public health threats with a specific focus on key and other priority populations. Key Populations include sex workers, gay and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, people who inject and use drugs, and people in prisons. Key populations are disproportionately affected by HIV due to certain risk behaviors, marginalization, and structural factors such as stigma, discrimination, violence, human right violations, and criminalization which contributes to limited access to health services.

This circular's aim is to highlight the critical importance of ensuring that all persons and especially key populations have access to health services that are in keeping with the principles of Batho Pele where:

All citizens should have equal access to the services to which they are entitled. Citizens should be treated with courtesy and consideration. Citizens should be given full, accurate information about the public services they are entitled to receive.

The spirit of Batho Pele is to respect the dignity of the people we serve and acknowledge their rights to public health services. This is important because it means that the needs and expectations of those that we serve should be foremost and placed first. As health care providers we have a moral and legal responsibility to deliver the best possible service to all including key populations that require our services with Batho Pele being the moral criteria used to assess the quality standard of service always delivered.

In this regard the attached table summarises that health services needs of the different key population groups. These interventions, in addition to comprehensive health care services should be made available to key populations based on an assessment of the individual's health care needs. Furthermore, it is expected that the attached reporting tool be utilized by the facility peer educators on the services rendered and use the STI screening Tool to ensure timely diagnosis and treatment.



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Director: HIV Prevention Strategies

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Key Populations Package of Health Services offered at all Public PHC services

Services at public health facilities offered to all including key populations.	Sex Workers	Men who have sex with men	Transgender	Persons who inject drugs	Inmates
Sexual and reproductive health					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contraceptives 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safer sex and risk reduction counselling 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cervical Cancer screening 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condom Promotion and Use 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condom demonstration 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to safe abortion services 					
Pregnancy support					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pregnancy testing 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early booking 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antenatal, post-natal and intrapartum care 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) 					
Healthy lifestyle					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrition 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dietary guidance 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular exercise 					
Injuries and minor ailments					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening and treatment 					
HIV					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HTS 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ART, PEP and PrEP 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIV prevention package, including an adequate supply of condoms and lubricant 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treatment adherence support 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of Self Screening Tools 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CD4 Count and Viral Load 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All testing is voluntary and confidential (consent obtained) 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals with HIV are given linkage to care and support after diagnosis 					
Screening, management and/or referrals for:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychosocial support 					



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SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs) TOOL SYNDROMIC SCREENING TOOL

Clinic Name:

Patient File Number:

Patient name:

GENERAL MEASURES FOR STI PREVENTION

- Conduct screening and early detection of STIs for all sexually active clients.
- Provide HIV Counselling and education.
- Promote condom use and demonstration to reduce the risk of STIs.
- Support compliance/adherence to treatment and completion of STI treatment.
- Contact treatment/partner notification.

This tool must be used to screen all clients who are sexually active. Screening for STIs is an essential approach to managing STIs in South Africa

1. Screen for risk of STIs

(Ask the client the below questions to assess if they are at risk of contracting an STI)

1. Are you currently engaging in sexual activity?

 YES NO

2. Have you had sex with more than one sexual partner in the past 3 to 6 months?

 YES NO

3. Did you use a condom the last time you had sex?

 YES NO

4. Have you ever been treated for an STI?

 YES NO

Action: The persons level of risk for an STI is high if the response is "yes" to questions 1,2 & 4 and "no" to question 3.

2. STI Symptom screen

The syndromic approach treats the signs or symptoms (syndrome) of a group of diseases rather than treating a specific disease. This allows for the treatment of one or more conditions that often occur at the same time and have been accepted as the management of choice. Thus, is important to screen for the following STI Symptoms

Do you experience any of the following?

1. Itching or sores around the vagina and/or discharge from the vagina for women.

 YES NO

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2. Sores on or discharge from the penis for men. | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 3. Pain during sex or when urinating. | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 4. Pain in the pelvic or lower abdominal area. | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 5. Assess for the presence of sore throats in people who report having oral sex. | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |
| 6. Pain or sores in or around the anus for people who have anal sex. | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | <input type="checkbox"/> NO |

Action: If the patient responds "yes" to any of the above, conduct further investigation and manage according to the National STI Management Guidelines.

Describe the actions taken (if any):

3. HIV Screening

Do you know your HIV status? YES NO

When last did you test for HIV?

Action: Conduct an HIV test if the client does not know his/her HIV status or has not had an HIV test in the past 6 months.

ONCE SCREENING HAS BEEN CONCLUDED, EDUCATE THE CLIENT

UNTREATED STIS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH SEVERE COMPLICATIONS, such as:

- Compromised fertility (for males & females), ectopic pregnancy, and pelvic inflammatory disease.
- Cellular changes increase the risk of genital cancers.
- Transmission of STIs to the unborn child

Nurse Clinician: _____

Date: _____

