

National Department of Health

HIV Rapid Test Continuous Quality Improvement Program Overview Course – Knowledge Hub

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Overview of the HIV Rapid Testing Continuous Quality Improvement master training programme



- It is a National HIV Rapid Testing Continuous Quality Improvement master training programme curriculum
- All material needed provided online
- Includes manuals and course slides
- Online registration opens 12th August 2024
- Additional reading includes updated HTS policies and the revised Quality Improvement guidelines will be loaded in due course

Course Overview of RTCQI



- RTCQI is a comprehensive and data driven approach to ensure the quality of HIV testing.
- The initiative is based on the Quality Assurance Cycle (QAC).
- This is a continuum of integrated planned activities that supports and promotes effective rapid HIV testing
- **Leading to accurate and reliable test results.**



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Foundational Pillars of the RTCQI Program



Policy Engagement

Provide a framework for quality testing

Develop and implement policy

Engage stakeholders & advocate for resource allocation



Strengthening Human Resources

Develop a competency-based training program and certify testers

Create a network of certified testers



Stepwise Process for Improving the Quality of HIV Rapid Testing (SPI-RT)

Provide standards on quality assurance (QA) practices for HIV rapid and recency testing sites

Guide development of policies and procedures to address gaps identified at testing sites

Monitor quality compliance and certify testing sites

Foundational Pillars of the RTCQI Programme



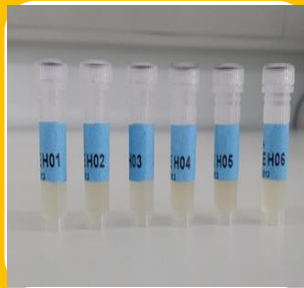
Standardized HTS Register

Increase uptake of standardized HIV testing register

Include Quality Indicators in HTS register

Analyze data for routine monitoring and corrective actions

Enhanced Tracking and Reporting



Independent Quality Control (IQC) and Proficiency Testing (PT)

Promote regular use of IQC in all testing sites

Increase uptake and coverage of PT programs

Analyze data for routine monitoring and corrective actions



Rapid Test Kit Lot Verification

Strengthen national capacity to implement verification of new kit lots

Monitor test kit performance through post market surveillance

Module 1



- **Module 1:** Assuring the Quality of HIV Rapid Testing

Comprehensive course

- Modular approach
- **TOTAL = 10 modules**
- Self-study and self-directed learning with material and videos provided
- Includes assessments after every module and a final assessment

Module 2- 5



- **Module 2:** Stock Management and Inventory

- **Module 3:** Safety at HIV Testing Site

- **Module 4:** Specimen Collection Finger Prick Blood

- **Module 5:** HIV Rapid Test Algorithm

- **3 Test Algorithm aligned with the 2025 HTS policy**

Module 6-10



- **Module 6:** Record Keeping

- **Module 7:** Quality Control

- **Module 8:** Introduction to Proficiency Testing

- **Module 9:** HIV RT Tester Competency and Certification

- **Stepwise process for improving the Quality of HIV Rapid Testing**

Independent Quality Control & Proficiency Testing



Independent Quality Control (IQC)

- Known Pos and Neg controls used to check if test kit is working properly
- Minimum once a week, preferably at the beginning of the week
- On receipt of new shipment of test kits
- Beginning a new lot/ batch number
- When environmental conditions exceed required range for stability of test kits

Proficiency Testing (PT)

- Panel of unknown specimens sent to multiple testing sites by NHLS
- Test sites perform tests and report results and send back to NHLS
- Results indicate the quality of testing site, personnel performance and accuracy of test results given to patients.



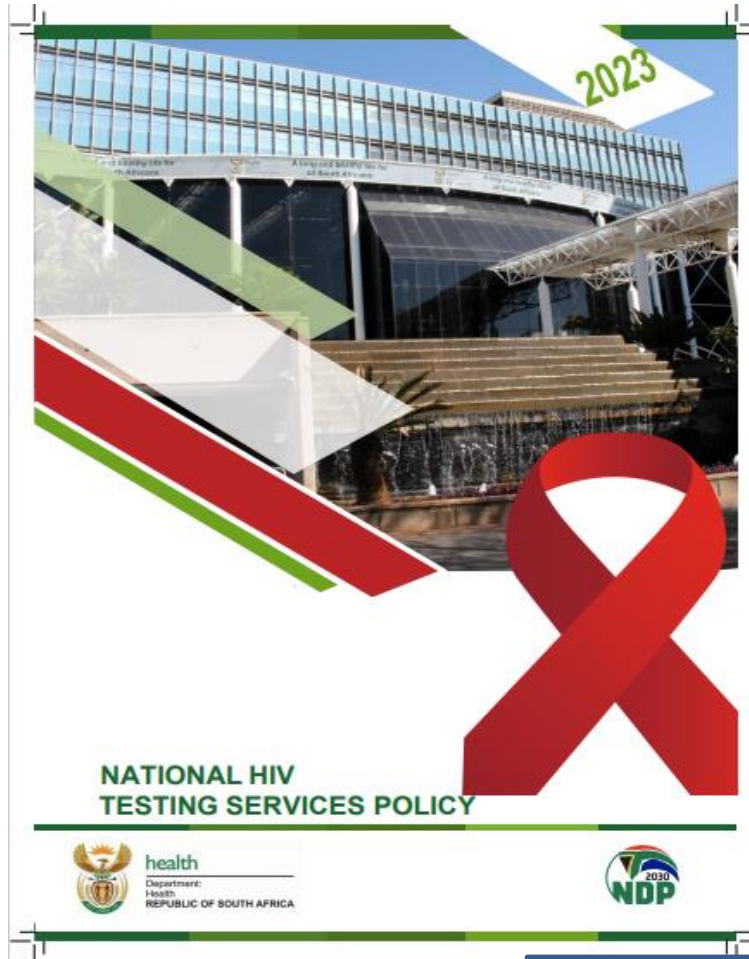
Figure 1: PT Packaging

Assessments cont.



- Course registration required with Knowledge Hub
- Questions pertaining to each module to be answered online
- Pass mark 80% for each module and overall for course; allows participant to retake test if unsuccessful
- Certificate of Completion generated by Knowledge Hub
- Final assessment must be done with a pass of 80% to receive the certificate

Policy Engagement



- HTS Policy, QA Guidelines and Training Manuals revised to align with RTCQI requirements.
- RTCQI recognized as national program (now available on the DoH Knowledge Hub)

Summary



- DOH ownership and maintenance of RTCQI program and activities within the HTS programme.
- Uptake and consistency in IQC performance will improve including the PT program
- Testing personnel demonstrate confidence in conducting rapid HIV tests and ensuring result accuracy.
- Increased number of testers achieving competency levels.
- It builds capacity of provincial staff (clinicians supporting HIV facilities), district HAST managers, district based clinic specialist teams and designated service providers using the Train the Trainer model to cascade information



thank you



health

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