



# Syphilis Management Training

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## Maternal screening gaps and Action

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# Why Maternal Screening Matters



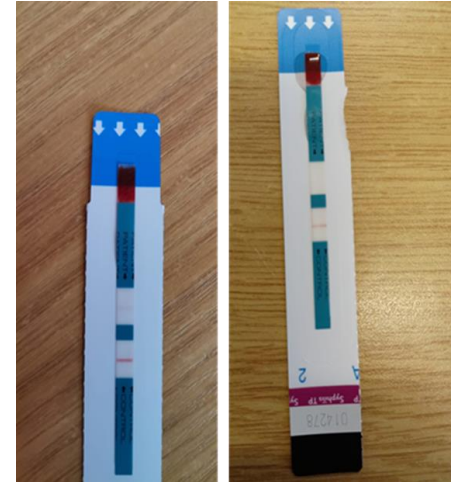
- Syphilis infection can be asymptomatic or present with multiple symptoms
- Syphilis is associated with adverse pregnancy outcomes
  - Congenital syphilis
  - Miscarriage and stillbirth
  - Risk of HIV transmission
- Missed syphilis screening could result in
  - Higher health system costs due to late treatment

1) Peters et al., SAJHIV 2022  
2) SA DoH guidelines, 2023

# Syphilis management in pregnancy



- Screening and testing in pregnancy in South Africa:
  - Treponemal rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs)
  - Four weekly intervals
  - For any positive results, laboratory based RPR is done
- Treatment: Benzathine benzylpenicillin
  - If RDT positive, first dose given same-day
  - Partner notification slip(s) issued



1) Peters et al., SAJHIV 2022  
2) SA DoH guidelines, 2023

# Gaps in Maternal Screening

- Coverage during antenatal care (ANC)
  - Late ANC bookings: missed opportunities
- Good rapid point-of-care tests are available
  - Accessible and opportunity for same-day treatment
  - May be negative in symptomatic infection
  - May remain positive post-treatment
- Partner Engagement
  - Low notification and treatment rates



Clinical implementation  
guidance required



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# Recommended actions

- Encourage early booking and expand access
  - Routine screening at every ANC visit
- Strengthen supply chains services
  - Ensure availability of test kits and reagents
- Strengthen integration of services
  - Syphilis, HIV, HBV and other sexual transmitted infections screenings



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# Recommended actions



- Promote partner testing and treatment
- Capacity Building
  - Staff training, updated guidelines



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# Conclusion



- Early diagnosis and treatment could prevent long term complications
- Together, we can accelerate progress towards elimination targets



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