

# Implementation progress of status neutral HTS in Antenatal Care Settings

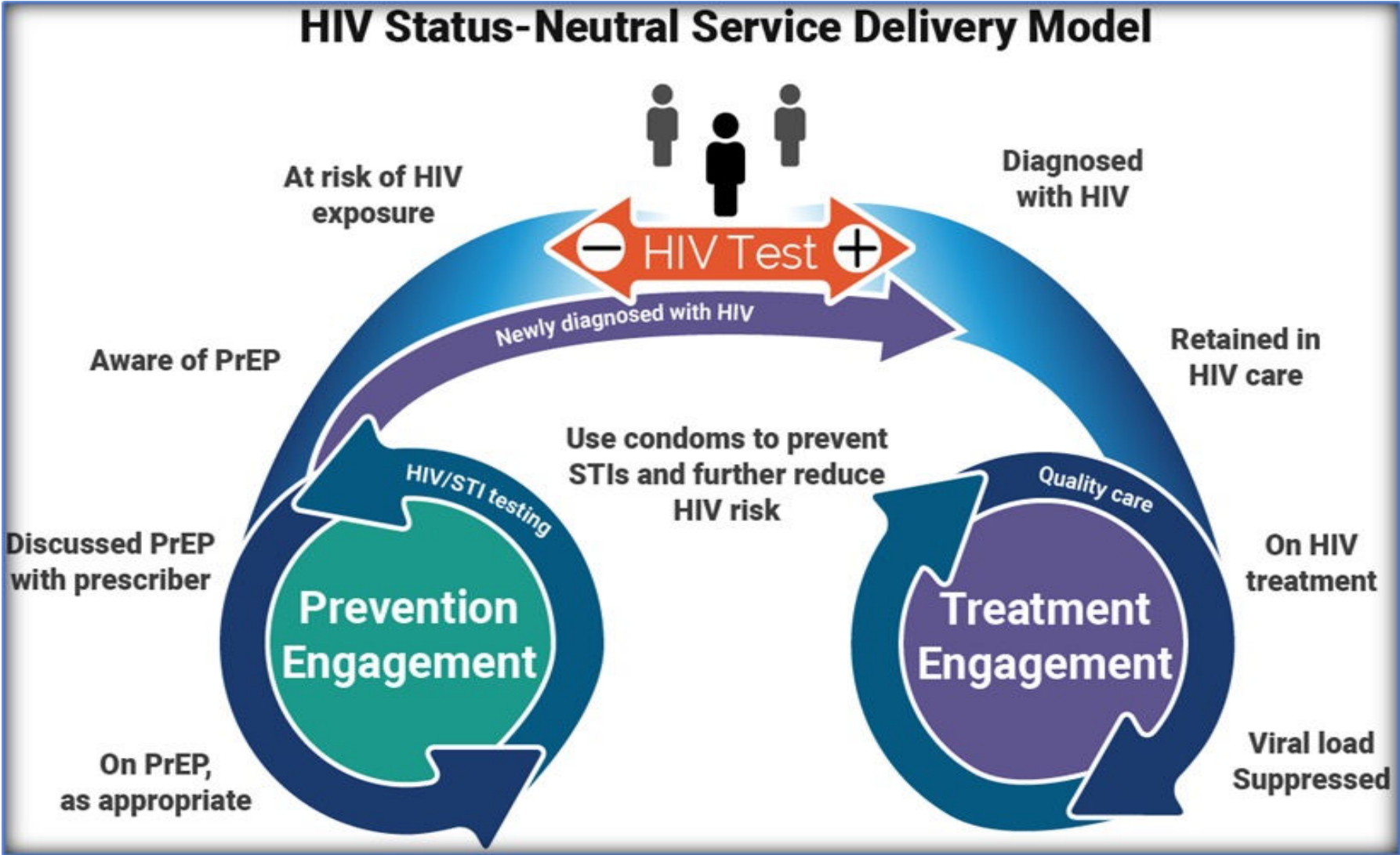
Alarice Lenders, NDOH South Africa:

**Leveraging DSD Strategies to Optimize HIV Testing and Linkage Services**

March 13-16, 2023 | Nairobi, Kenya



# South Africa Recognition of Status Neutral as the way of Enhancing dHTS



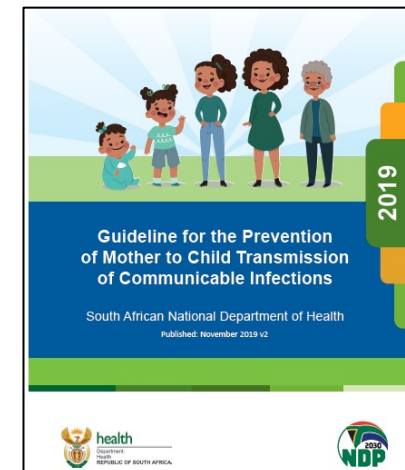
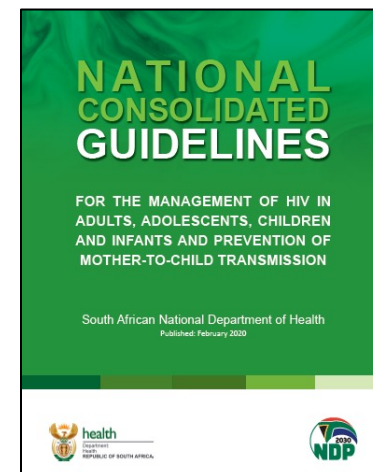
# Status Neutral Services for Pregnant Women

Sexually Transmitted Infections  
MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES 2018

Adapted from: Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicine List PHC

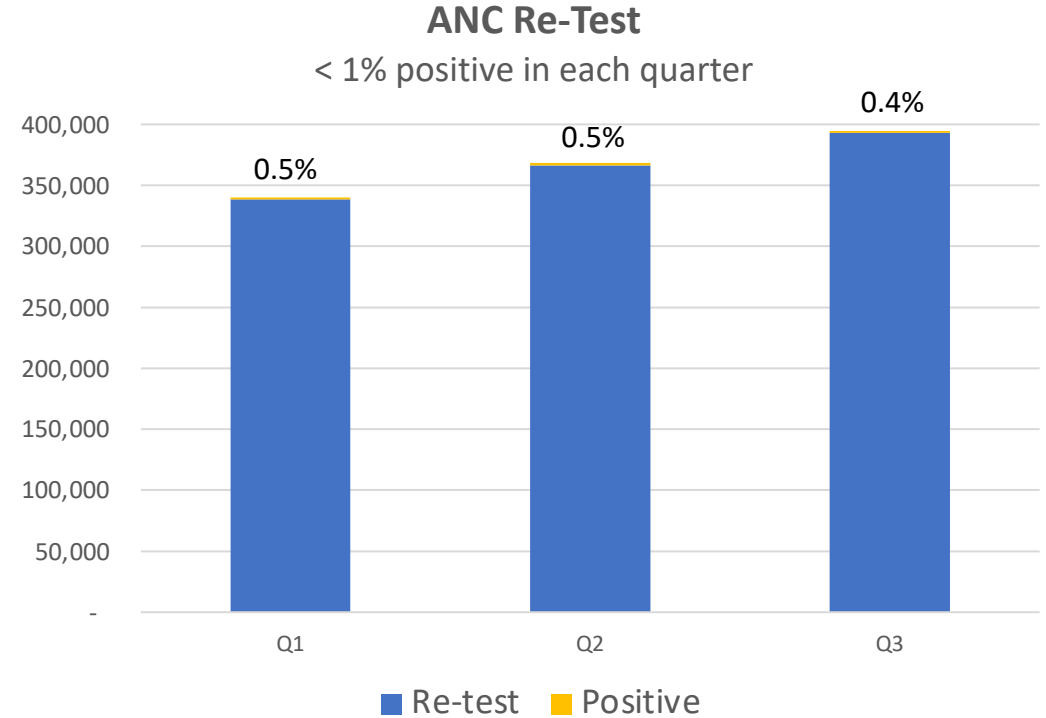
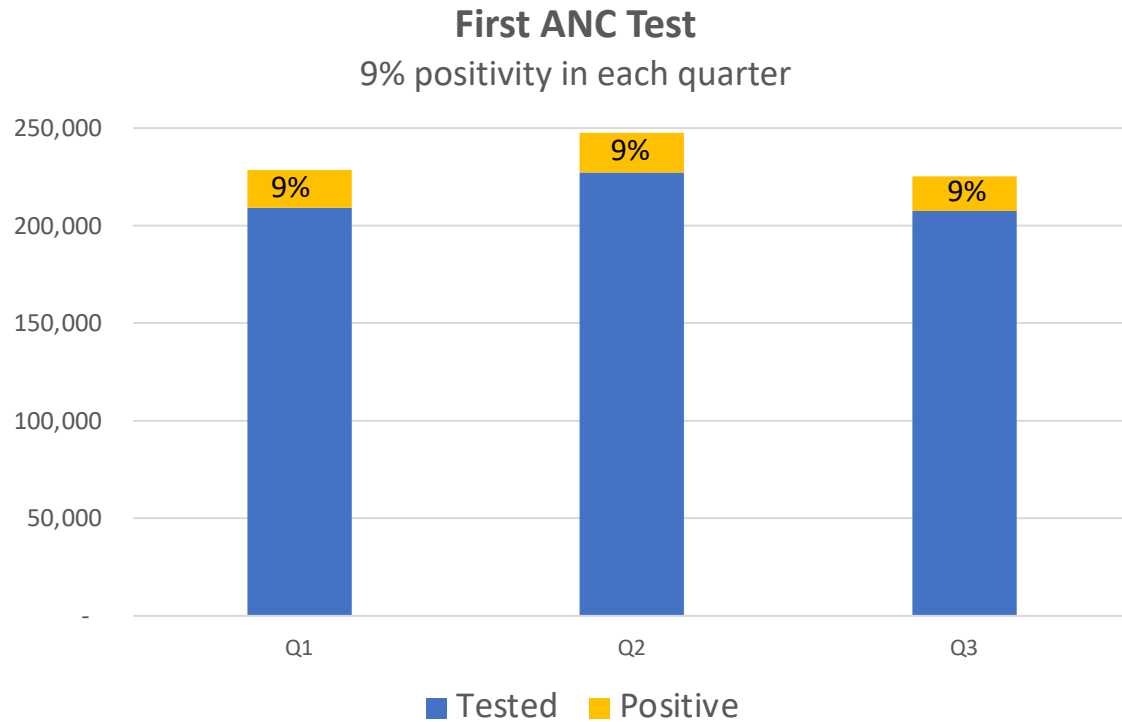
## *Policies & Guidelines Underpinning dHTS in ANC*

- Maternal guidelines includes the number of HIV tests that should be conducted via Basic Antenatal Care (BANC) visits = 8 HIV test visits / 9 months
- All HIV negative pregnant women should be referred to preventative services: this includes PrEP and condoms
- Prevention of Mother To Child Transmission (PMTCT)
- Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) guidelines and the STI syndromic management protocol
- The ART consolidated guidelines
- HIV Prevention Strategy



# HIV Testing and Linkage to Treatment in the ANC Program in South Africa

Period April 2022 – December 2022 First and Re-test in the ANC program



**TROA – 97,5%**

**Retained – 96%**

## PrEP in ANC

The PrEP guidelines have been updated: Delivery, Breastfeeding and ANC

Job Aids & IEC material have been updated

HCW: Risk benefit counselling and job aids: Benefits of PrEP

Specific algorithm: PrEP in pregnancy

Training video : additional normal

All facilities were provided with memory sticks

Indicators has been updated in the NIDS to collect the data : effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2023

**PrEP during pregnancy**

- Unprotected sex increases the chances of contracting HIV.
- If you are pregnant and have unprotected sex the possibility of becoming HIV positive is higher.
- If you become HIV positive whilst pregnant you could pass on the infection to your unborn baby.

**To protect yourself and your baby you can:**

- 1 Use a condom
- 2 Ask your partner to get an HIV test
- 3 Encourage your HIV positive partner to take ARVs
- 4 Take ARVs if you are HIV positive

**If you are HIV negative, you can also take PrEP!**

**What you need to know to help you to decide if PrEP is for you:**

- PrEP is safe for you and your unborn baby.
- PrEP can protect you from HIV.
- PrEP is easy to take, just one pill a day.
- You can take PrEP without anybody else knowing.
- You can take PrEP if you and your partner who is living with HIV want to have a baby.
- You can continue taking PrEP even when you are breastfeeding.

**PrEP Fact Sheet**

**Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis**

PrEP is a safe, HIV prevention method that HIV-negative people can use to reduce their chances of contracting HIV.

- Oral PrEP are pills, that need to be taken daily to prevent HIV infection.
- Oral PrEP has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection by more than 90% among people who are at high risk for HIV infection, who take their pills daily.
- PrEP is only for people who are HIV-negative.
- PrEP is for anyone who wants to protect themselves from HIV infection.

PrEP is another option for HIV prevention. Your options include:

- Condoms
- PrEP
- Counselling
- PrEP
- Healthy lifestyles
- Treatment for STIs
- Male medical circumcision
- ART for partners living with HIV
- Partner testing
- Ante-natal care

**Starting PrEP...**

- Month 1** Start with an HIV test to confirm your negative status. Get your PrEP supply for one month.
- Month 2** Get your 3-month supply of PrEP pills for 3 months.
- Month 3** You will return for repeat HIV test and a new 3-month prescription for PrEP.

**What does PrEP mean?**

Pre = before  
Exposure = coming into contact with HIV  
Prophylaxis = a medicine to prevent infection

**Where can I get PrEP?** PrEP is provided at your public PHC clinic or community health care centre. If you want to find out more about PrEP, please visit [www.myprep.co.za](http://www.myprep.co.za) or visit a public clinic.

www.myprep.co.za @MyPrEPSouthAfrica #MyPrEP\_SA

health  
Department of Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Challenges

---

Uptake of HTS services of the men/boys who have impregnated women attending ANC services

---

Late ANC bookings: limits the number of HTS services, prevention services and PMTCT

---

Home deliveries especially in the rural area

---

Cross border issues which also affects our data

---

Fear of disclosure of HIV status due to Gender Based Violence (GBV)

---

Clients providing wrong phone numbers and addresses to provide Index testing to the partner

---

Increase of teenage pregnancy within the country

## Recommendations

- Engagement between the PrEP and Maternal units
- Strengthen and support the roll out of Men's health services especially those who do not seek medical care and including establishing men's friendly healthcare facilities.
- Strengthen our community testing services especially in the High Transmission area (HTA) and in areas where services are not being accessed and where there are geographical challenges (e.g.: farming, fishing and the mining sector)
- Strengthen the collaboration between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.
- Include combination prevention packages (contraceptives and condoms) in the Adolescent Youth Friendly services zones.
- Scale up, create demand and provide various prevention services and health education during the Sexual Reproductive Health awareness week
- Ensure there is sustainability of the activation services

Thank you!

