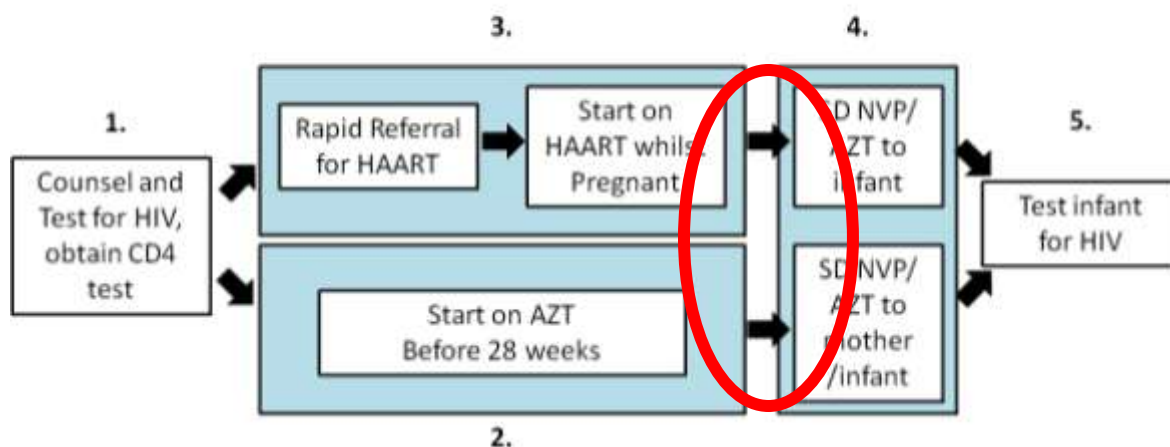


Checklist 4B: Accurately Identify Women in the PMTCT Programme

Problem: Many women attend antenatal clinics (ANCs) prior to delivery, and most of them are tested for HIV. Those that test positive for HIV are regularly enrolled in the PMTCT programme and given appropriate medications and instructions. When they go to the labour ward to deliver, however, their HIV status and their progress in the PMTCT programme is not known. This leads to unnecessary delays and may lead to mothers not receiving appropriate antiretroviral (ARV) prophylaxis during childbirth.

The Five Steps of PMTCT Care



Aim: All mothers who present to the labour ward will have a known HIV status if they were ever seen for an ANC first booking prior to delivery (goal > 95%).

Change Idea: Mark the ANC card with anything that cannot be removed (e.g., CD4 sticker, colored permanent marker, a code, etc.) so that the labour ward can accurately identify pregnant women in the PMTCT programme.

Change Idea Checklist:

- PHC clinic operational managers, the labour ward matron and staff should discuss and agree on the most appropriate way to mark the ANC card to ensure there is a standard approach to identifying mothers in the PMTCT programme. The chosen method should be safe, cost-effective, and not reveal the patient's HIV status to the community.
- A member of the PMTCT team (nurse or counselor) will then mark the ANC card in the chosen method.
- Measure whether this change is successful (goal > 95% of women who visit the ANC will have a known HIV status when they present to the labour ward — Note: This information is collected at the labour ward):
 - Number of women who present for labour _____
 - Number of women with known HIV status _____

Note: Please remember that while testing the change at the PHC level, the end result is at the labour ward; therefore, coordination between PHCs and labour wards is critical for this change to be effective.

How to Introduce This Change Idea to Your Clinic and Sustain Your Success:

Checklist of tasks to complete before testing this change idea:

- Discuss this idea (hold a meeting) to get buy-in from the ANC, labour ward, and PMTCT staff, including matrons and/or nurses and counselors.
- Choose a specific day(s) and a location to test this idea (do not make this a "policy" for the clinic until you have tested it on at least one day).
 - Date _____
 - Location _____
- Identify staff who are interested in introducing this change to participate in the pilot.
 - Staff member(s) _____

Checklist of tasks to complete after the pilot testing day:

- The facility manager, antenatal sister, labour ward sister, and counselor should meet at the end of the testing day to review the results, assess how the test went, and adapt the change as necessary.
- Was your test to implement this change successful? Why or why not? What adjustments can you make to achieve success? If you need to make adjustments, make a new plan and test the new plan at the very next opportunity. Meet after the testing day is complete to review results, assess how the test went, and adapt the change as necessary. Continue this process until the system is working smoothly.
- Once the change has been reliably tested and is achieving the desired outcomes, it can be made part of the routine care of patients. Implement this protocol for all new patients at every antenatal clinic.
- Share your results with other primary health care clinics.