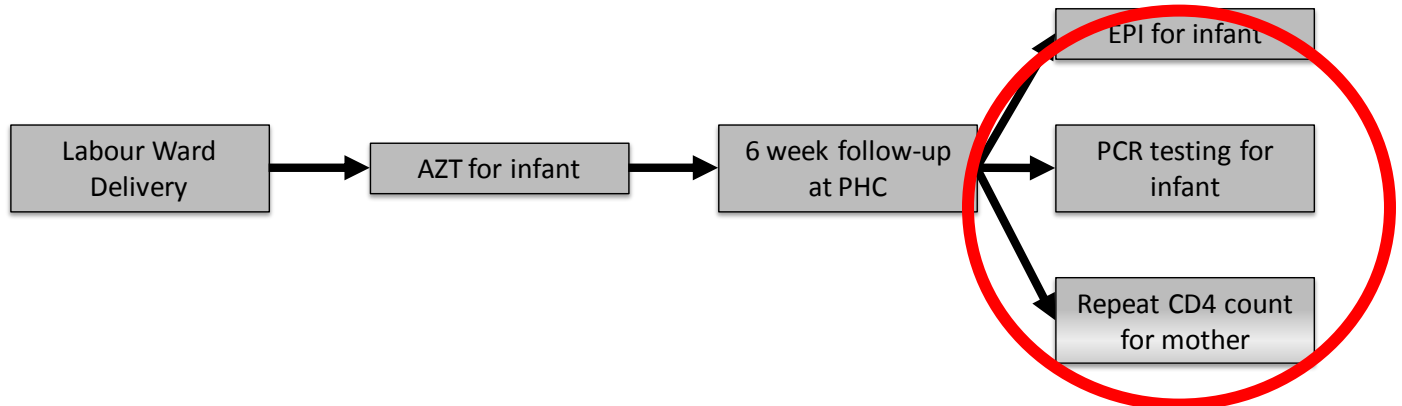


Checklist 5B: Effective Post-Natal Care

Problem: Women and infants who are enrolled in the PMTCT programme are meant to have repeat CD4 testing for the mother and PCR testing for the infant at six weeks. If these tests are not performed, we do not know which mothers may qualify for HAART (and possibly prevent orphaning) and which babies might be HIV positive. The six-week immunization visit is a good opportunity to perform these important tests.



Aims: All HIV-positive mothers get a repeat CD4 count, all HIV-exposed babies get a PCR test at six weeks, and all babies get the appropriate EPI vaccination (goal > 95%).

Change Idea: Combine (or “bundle”) the mother’s repeat CD4 test and the baby’s PCR test with routine EPI for the baby. Perform CD4 and PCR before EPI to make sure all tests are done. Refer the clients for appropriate care (i.e., referral to HAART programme or wellness clinic) when the mother and child return for follow up.

Change Idea Checklist:

- Sister identifies the mothers and babies who are enrolled in the PMTCT programme on the EPI visit.
- Instead of proceeding to EPI, refer mother for repeat CD4 testing and baby for PCR testing.
- After* CD4 test for mother and PCR test for baby, give usual six-week EPI immunizations to baby.
- Collect CD4 and PCR results as usual.
- Give mother and child two-week return date for CD4 and PCR results, and refer mother and child to appropriate care (HAART programme or wellness clinic).
- Measure whether this change is successful:
 - Number of mothers coming for EPI on test day _____
 - Number of mothers/babies in PMTCT programme on test day _____
 - Number of EPI given to HIV-exposed babies _____
 - Number of repeat CD4 tests done for women in PMTCT programme _____
 - Number of PCR tests done for HIV-exposed babies _____

Important Notes: This change idea is complex and may require many changes to clinic flow in order to execute correctly. This change may require adding a CD4 test result column to the EPI register. Mothers who do not return for results should be contact traced to ensure appropriate referral.

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 post-natal care and PMTCT staff, including matrons and/or nurses and counselors.
- Choose a specific EPI day and a location to test the idea.
 - 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, and counselor should meet at the end of the test day to review the results, assess how the test went, and adapt the change as necessary.
- Review your data. Why or why wasn't your test successful? The goal is that 95% of HIV-positive mothers get a repeat CD4 count, 95% of HIV-exposed babies get six week PCR testing, and 95% of all babies get appropriate EPI vaccination.
- If you need to make adjustments to meet your goal, make a new plan for the next EPI clinic and test the new plan at the very next opportunity. Meet after the test 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 is reliably tested and is achieving the desired outcomes, it can be made part of the routine care of patients. Implement this protocol for all clients at every EPI clinic.
- Share your experience other clinics.