THE RAPID **SYPHILIS TEST** TOOLKIT **IMPLEMENTATION 3**



Appendix B Training of Healthcare Workers Workshop























Training of Healthcare Workers Workshop

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Appendix C: Implementation 3 Sample presentation slides for Training

Appendix 1: Standard Operating Procedures for Performing a Finger-Prick

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<u>Appendix 4: Examples of quality and stock management documentation</u> (including stock card)

Appendix 5: Example of Quality Control Documentation

Appendix 7: DTS testing instructions diagram

Abbreviations

ANC: Antenatal care

HCW: Health Care Worker

TPPA: Treponema pallidum Particle Agglutination Assay

VDRL: Venereal Disease Research Laboratory

1. Welcome to the Rapid Syphilis Testing (RST) Training of Health Care Workers Workshop!

This two day training workshop is designed for health care workers who will be responsible for performing rapid syphilis testing as part of routine care. Through a series of lectures, discussions, classroom activities and practical exercises in the laboratory, you will acquire the knowledge, skills and confidence to conduct testing safely and accurately.

The training manual outlines the objectives of the workshop and provides a summary of each of the information sessions along with some key questions designed to help you reflect and consider your own experiences. In addition, the appendix of the manual contains:

- Slides from each session
- Standard operating procedures used during the practical exercises
- Quality assurance documents
- Stock management records

You are encouraged to ask questions and share your own stories and experiences throughout the workshop. Sharing experiences and expertise will benefit both participants and trainers. Finding ways to relate the information to your own experience and workplace setting will help to make the training more effective and memorable.

1.1 Goal

To equip participants with the knowledge, skills and confidence to perform rapid syphilis testing safely and accurately and to manage patient concerns.

1.2 Target Audience

This document is directed at:

- Health care workers or individuals responsible for performing syphilis testing
- Individuals responsible for a clinic or facility which offers syphilis testing
- Laboratory technicians or individuals working in a laboratory which is responsible for conducting syphilis testing

1.3 Workshop Length

The Training of Health Care Workers Workshop will take place over *two days*.

1.4 Evaluations

Before the workshop begins, you will be asked to complete a brief pre-training evaluation quiz. The purpose of this evaluation is to determine how much you already know about syphilis, rapid syphilis testing, and quality assurance. The outcome of this evaluation will *in no way* affect your enrolment in the workshop or ability to successfully complete the training modules. At the end of the workshop, you will complete a post-training evaluation quiz which will enable trainers to gauge how much you learned over the two days. The post-training evaluation will also have a practical component: you will be observed performing rapid syphilis tests during the final laboratory practicum on day two.

1.5 Certification

At the close of the workshop, you will be presented with a certificate to document your attendance and successful completion of the Rapid Syphilis Testing Training Workshop.

1.6 Refresher Training

Refresher training will be held every year for individuals who have successfully completed the Rapid Training Workshop. Supervisors may provide additional informal training on the job during monitoring visits if problems are identified with the tester's performance or the facility receives an unsatisfactory score on a quality assessment.

2. Workshop Overview

The workshop overview provides an introduction to each of the modules you will be taught, either in the classroom or in the laboratory.

All classroom sessions have this symbol:



All practical sessions have this symbol:

The Learning Objectives outline the knowledge and skills you will have learned upon completion of the module. They reflect the content contained within module slides.

The Questions to consider are a series of questions that follow each set of module slides. They are also summarized at the end of the training manual. The questions are designed to help you relate the information or skills you have learned to your own experiences. They will also help you consider how rapid syphilis testing will be performed at your own facility.

The Module Slides are for you to use throughout the training workshop. The trainer will explain and elaborate on the information and it may be helpful for the you to make notes on the slides or on in a separate notebook. You may also like to write questions or make notes on discussions on the slide set for personal use after the training workshop. The trainer will hand out slide sets on the first day of the workshop.

Module 1. An Overview of Syphilis



Format

This session is presented as a lecture and will provide information on *Treponema pallidum*, the bacteria that cause syphilis; the stages of the disease; transmission; and the global epidemiology of syphilis.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, you should:

- 1. Have an understanding of the global epidemiology of syphilis and congenital syphilis.
- 2. Be able to describe the three phases of syphilis infection.
- 3. Be able to clinically identify the signs of infection.
- Have an understanding of syphilis transmission and the risk of infection during pregnancy.

- Is it surprising that syphilis is such a big problem?
- What do you think could be done to make more women aware of the risks of being infected with syphilis?

In your experience, do women go to antenatal care early in their pregnancy?

What can we do to encourage women to attend antenatal care early in their pregnancy?

Module 2. Syphilis Testing Technologies



Format

This session is presented as a lecture and will provide basic information on immune response to syphilis and the types of tests available to detect syphilis infection.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, you should be able to:

- 1. Describe the difference between a test that detects bacteria and a test that detects antibodies.
- 2. Understand the definitions of antigen and antibody
- 3. Describe the main characteristics of treponemal and non-treponemal tests.
- Describe the characteristics and benefits of rapid diagnostic tests.

Questions to Consider

- What syphilis tests have you performed before? How "user-friendly" did you find them to be?
- What are the greatest challenges to providing syphilis testing?
- What do you think is the greatest benefit of rapid syphilis tests?

Module 3. Treatment for Syphilis



Format

This session is presented as a lecture and will discuss the WHO recommended treatment for syphilis and congenital syphilis. It will need to be adapted to reflect National Guidelines for syphilis treatment.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, you should be able to:

- 1. Describe the recommended treatment and dose for syphilis for an adult as per national guidelines
- 2. Describe the alternative treatment and dose for syphilis for an adult as per national guidelines
- Describe how to manage an infant born to a mother who tested positive during pregnancy as per national guidelines
- 4. Describe how to manage the partner of a syphilis-positive individual as per national guidelines
- 5. Describe the potential risks and adverse outcomes for the recommended and alternative treatment for syphilis for an adult and infant
- 6. Describe the potential risks and adverse outcomes if treatment is not administered

Questions to Consider

- Have you ever had a patient refuse treatment for syphilis?
- How did you manage the situation?
- What are the most common complaints patients make about syphilis treatment?
- How can you use this information to better inform or prepare patients?

Module 4. Integration of Services: Providing a Care Package



Format

This session is presented as a lecture and will describe how to integrate rapid syphilis testing alongside other services offered at the clinic site.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the session, you should be able to:

- 1. Describe the current patient flow at your clinic
- Describe when and where rapid syphilis testing would take place.
- Provide three examples of how syphilis testing could be integrated with other services.

Questions to Consider

- Are any services already integrated at your facility?
- How does integration affect your daily activities at work?
- In your opinion, is integration a positive approach to service delivery?

Module 5. Safety at the Testing Site



Format

This session is presented as a lecture and will detail the safety precautions that need to be taken whenever testing is being performed.

Learning Objectives

- At the end of the session, you should be able to:
- 1. Define safety
- 2. Identify potential hazards associated with rapid syphilis testing.
- 3. Describe how to dispose of biohazardous materials.
- Describe the safety precautions which must be observed when testing for syphilis.

- Is safety promoted at the facility where you work?
- What do you think can be done to make people more aware of the importance of safety in health facilities?
- Do you always put your personal safety first?
- Have you ever been in an unsafe situation? How do you think it could have been prevented?

Module 6. Preparation for Testing



Format

This session is presented as a lecture and will outline how to prepare to perform syphilis testing.

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- By the end of this session, you should be able to:
- 1. List and identify all the supplies required for rapid syphilis testing
- 2. List and identify all the components of test kits for rapid syphilis testing.

Questions to Consider

- At your facility, how do you and your colleagues prepare for testing?
- What do you consider the most important step in preparing to perform a test? Why?
- Have you ever been unprepared or forgotten an item during your preparation? How did you manage this? Did it make a difference to your performance? Why?

Module 7. Orientation to Rapid Syphilis Tests



Format

This session is presented a lecture and will describe how to perform the rapid syphilis test, step-by-step. It will also give further detail of the materials needed for testing to begin and how to perform a finger prick correctly. (Refer to programme standard operating procedures for performing a finger prick and for rapid syphilis testing).

Learning Objectives

- By the end of this session, you should be able to:
- 1. Describe how to perform a finger prick
- 2. Describe how to perform a rapid syphilis test.
- 3. Interpret the result of a rapid syphilis test

- What is your first impression of the testing protocol?
- Is it similar to any other tests you perform at your facility?
- What do you think will be the most difficult part of testing (if any)?

Module 8. Performing the Test



Format

This session is a laboratory practical and will introduce you to rapid syphilis tests and their use. There will be two parts to the practical. In part I, you will learn how to perform rapid syphilis tests using one positive and one negative sample. In part II, you will perform the rapid syphilis test on five blinded samples and learn how to interpret the results.

Practical Objectives

By the end of this session, you should be able to:

- 1. List the contents of a rapid syphilis test kit.
- 2. Correctly perform a rapid syphilis test by following the standard operating procedures.
- 3. Interpret the result of a rapid syphilis test
- Re-constitute dried tube specimens according to the standard operating procedures.

Module 9. Documents and Records



Format

This session is presented as a lecture and will describe the difference between a document and record and the importance of each.

Questions to Consider

- What are some examples of documents and records at your facility?
- Are there ever times when the documents and records at your facility are not correctly completed?
- What circumstances lead to poor documentation? (e.g. understaffing, high workload)
- Can you think of any solutions to improve documentation and overcome the challenges listed above?

Module 10. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)



Format

This session is presented as a lecture and will discuss the importance of Standard Operating Procedures and their use during testing.

Learning Objectives

- By the end of this session, you should be able to:
- 1. Describe the importance of a standard operating procedure
- 2. Describe when a standard operating procedure should be used and where it should be stored
- Give five examples of standard operating procedures

Questions to Consider

- Why is testing with a standard operating procedure important?
- Do you always use a standard operating procedure when performing a test?
- Why do you think testers may not use a standard operating procedure?

Module 11. Supply and Stock Management



Format

This session is presented as a lecture and will discuss the importance of Logistics Management Information Systems (LMIS) and their tools.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, you should be able to:

- Identify and describe the different Logistics Management Information System tools.
- Understand and appreciate the importance of these Logistics Management Information System tools in commodity management and reporting and ordering supplies in a timely manner.
- 3. Describe the procedures required to complete these Logistics Management Information Systems

Questions to Consider

- What is the current system of ordering supplies at your facility?
- What do you think could be done to improve the current system at your facility?
- Why do you think stockouts occur at facilities?
- What do you think should be done to help prevent stockouts?

Module 12. Monitoring and Evaluation



Format

This session is presented as a lecture and will discuss the importance of monitoring and evaluation in a syphilis control programme.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, you should be able to:

- 1. Define "monitoring" and describe its purpose
- 2. Define "evaluation" and describe its purpose
- 3. Describe the key differences between monitoring and evaluation
- 4. Describe the roles of health care workers and supervisors/ internal monitors during a monitoring visit

- How often is your facility visited by a supervisor?
- What does the supervisor do during the visit? Do you consider this to be "supportive" supervision?
- What else would you like the supervisor to do during his/her visit?

Module 13. Quality Assurance and Quality Control



Format

This session is presented as a lecture and will introduce participants to the concepts of quality assurance and quality control and describe the importance of quality assurance and quality control to rapid syphilis testing

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, you should be able to:

- 1. Define quality control and quality assurance.
- 2. Describe trouble shooting
- List the benefits of quality control in rapid testing.
- Differentiate between internal quality control and external quality control
- Describe the process of maintaining quality control records.

Questions to Consider

- Are there any other programs which have quality assurance or quality control components?
- Do you think quality assurance and quality control are important? Why?
- Are the quality activities something that you could imagine doing in your own health facility?

Module 14. External Quality Assurance/Dried Tube Specimens



Format

This session is presented as a lecture and will discuss the role of external quality assurance and dried tube specimens as part of a quality system for a syphilis testing programme.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, participants should be able to

- 1. Describe the value of Dried Tube Specimens
- 2. Describe the purpose of Routine Quality Control Testing and Proficiency Panel Testing, and the differences between the two procedures.
- 3. Correctly complete all forms required by the Quality System.

- Do you treat all specimens as potentially infectious?
- Would you be confident testing with dried tube specimens as part of an external quality assurance exercise?
- Do you think external quality assurance could be sustained at your facility?
- Why or why not?

Module 15. Testing with Dried Tube Specimens



Format

This session is a laboratory practical and will introduce participants to rapid syphilis tests and their use.

Practical Objectives

- By the end of this session, you should be able to:
- 1. Prepare dried tube specimens in accordance with the standard operating procedures.
- 2. Perform rapid syphilis test and correctly interpret the results, in accordance with the standard operating procedures, using a reconstituted dried tube specimen.

Questions for Participants

- 1. Is it surprising that syphilis is such a big problem? Why or why not?
- 2. What do you think could be done to make more women aware of the risks of being infected with syphilis?
- 3. In your experience, do women go to antenatal care early in their pregnancy?
- 4. What can we do to encourage women to attend antenatal care early in their pregnancy?
- 5. What syphilis tests have you performed before? How "user-friendly" did you find them to be?
- 6. What are the greatest challenges to providing syphilis testing?
- 7. What do you think is the greatest benefit of rapid syphilis tests?
- 8. Have you ever had a patient refuse treatment for syphilis? How did you manage the situation?
- 9. What are the most common complaints patients make about syphilis treatment?
- 10. How can you use this information to better inform or prepare patients?
- 11. Are any services already integrated at your facility?
- 12. How does integration affect your daily activities at work?
- 13. In your opinion, is integration a positive approach to service delivery?
- 14. Is safety promoted at the facility where you work?
- 15. What do you think can be done to make people more aware of the importance of safety in health facilities?
- 16. Do you always put your personal safety first?
- 17. Have you ever been in an unsafe situation? How do you think it could have been prevented?
- 18. At your facility, how do you and your colleagues prepare for testing?
- 19. What do you consider the most important step in preparing to perform a test? Why?
- 20. Have you ever been unprepared or forgotten an item during your preparation? How did you manage this? Did it make a difference to your performance? Why?
- 21. What is your first impression of the testing protocol?
- 22. Is it similar to any other tests you perform at your facility?
- 23. What do you think will be the most difficult part of testing (if any)?



- 25. Are there ever times when the documents and records at your facility are not correctly completed?
- 26. What circumstances lead to poor documentation? (eg. understaffing, high workload)
- 27. Can you think of any solutions to improve documentation and overcome the challenges listed above?
- 28. Why is testing with a standard operating procedure important?
- 29. Do you always use a standard operating procedure when performing a test?
- 30. Why do you think testers may not use standard operating procedures?
- 31. What is the current system of ordering supplies at your facility?
- 32. What do you think could be done to improve the current system at your facility?
- 33. Why do you think stock outs occur at facilities?
- 34. What do you think should be done to help prevent stock outs?
- 35. How often is your facility visited by a supervisor?
- 36. What does the supervisor do during the visit? Do you consider this to be "supportive" supervision?
- 37. What else would you like the supervisor to do during his/her visit?
- 38. Are there any other programs which have components of quality assurance or quality control?
- 39. Do you think quality assurance and quality control are important? Why?
- 40. Are the quality activities something that you could imagine doing in your own health facility?
- 41. Do you treat all specimens as potentially infectious?
- 42. Would you be confident testing with dried tube specimens as part of an external quality assurance exercise?
- 43. Do you think external quality assurance could be sustained at your facility? Why or Why not?

Additional Questions to Consider

- 1. How should partners of syphilis-positive cases be managed?
- 2. What do you do if the chief of the tribe decides to kill a person with HIV?
- 3. How should you discuss prevention with people of different cultural backgrounds?
- 4. Will oral antibiotics work or is the only effective treatment an injection with penicillin?
- 5. How should treatment be followed up?
- 6. What happens to the rapid test result of an individual with a history of syphilis infection?
- 7. How should you manage couples with discordant syphilis test results?
- 8. If a woman tested positive in a previous pregnancy and was treated, should she be re-treated? What is the impact on the baby?