



## FACT SHEET AUGUST 2006

### NEW WHO PATIENT MONITORING GUIDELINES FOR HIV CARE AND ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY (ART)

All WHO fact sheets, press releases, features and other information on HIV/AIDS can be found on <http://www.who.int/hiv/toronto2006>

To access IMAI/IMCI go to [www.who.int/hiv/capacity/en/](http://www.who.int/hiv/capacity/en/). The full patient monitoring tools including the guidelines, generic tools and training materials can be accessed by clicking on Sharepoint Registration at the bottom of the page.

#### BACKGROUND

The ability of countries to provide and sustain effective long-term HIV care with antiretroviral therapy (ART) and prevention is critical. This requires an effective patient monitoring system integrated with care, prevention and treatment at the health facility. A chronic care and ART patient monitoring system serves two main functions: a) it enables quality clinical management of patients; b) patient monitoring data are used for programme monitoring and management, and contribute to indicators at all levels for in-country and global reporting and planning.

#### THE GUIDELINES

The guidelines are a collaborative work endorsed by WHO, UNAIDS, the US President's Emergency Plan For Aids Relief (PEPFAR) including USAID, and other international partners. They are intended to facilitate stakeholder consensus on a minimum, standardized set of data elements to be included in patient monitoring tools, and aid in the development of an effective

national HIV care and ART patient monitoring system.

The document is aimed at those involved at various levels of the development or revision of patient monitoring tools such as HIV care and ART patient and facility records, registers and reports, or electronic systems, and may include National AIDS programme managers, Ministries of Health officials and monitoring and evaluation officers.

#### OPERATIONALIZING NATIONAL PATIENT MONITORING SYSTEMS

To facilitate the operationalization of a sustainable national patient monitoring system, the guidelines present:

- a recommended minimum standardized set of data elements for HIV care and ART patient monitoring
- recommended standardized definitions for key ART outcomes and other variables

- how to calculate facility and district indicators, as well as the internationally agreed upon national and global indicators which can be derived from the patient monitoring system (e.g. survival on ART; proportion remaining on a first-line ARV regimen)
- country and project examples of patient monitoring tools
- an illustrative generic paper-based patient monitoring system including a summary patient card, pre-ART register, ART register, and cross-sectional and ART cohort reports
- how to link a paper-based system with electronic registers and electronic entry of reports at district level

To date, the generic paper-based tools have been adapted by a number of national programmes, including Ethiopia,

Indonesia, Lesotho and Uganda, and are being adapted by many others across all regions. Some countries which had previously developed patient monitoring systems are currently revising their tools to address experiences and needs in the field (such as Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania and Swaziland), including problems with electronic systems, excessive paper burden, need for longitudinal data and follow-up of patients, and the important need for standardization of a national system.

The generic patient monitoring system is a core component of the IMAI/IMCI (Integrated Management of Adolescent and Adult/Childhood Illness). IMAI/IMCI is an evolving toolkit for a model, integrated essential package for HIV prevention, care and treatment which includes both the PMTCT interventions and paediatric prevention, care and treatment.