It’s time to strengthen linkages between sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV

This visual highlights current guidance from WHO on best supporting and strengthening STI and HIV linkages in the context of human rights and gender equality. It complements and builds upon work by partners in the Interagency Working Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) & HIV Linkages

Recommended treatment for STIs has been updated to counter growing antimicrobial resistance
- WHO guidelines for the treatment of Neisseria gonorrhoeae
- Consolidated guidelines on the use of antiretroviral drugs for treating and preventing HIV infection

WHO joint HIV and STI strategies support the universal health coverage goals
- Global health sector strategy on sexually transmitted infections, 2016-2021
- Global health sector strategy on HIV, 2016-2021

Human rights provide an international legal framework within which the sexual and reproductive health needs and aspirations of all people can be considered
- Sexual health, human rights and the law
- Reproductive health strategy to accelerate progress towards the attainment of international development goals and targets

Biomedical prevention technologies, including condoms and vaccines are critical to reduce STIs and HIV
- Condoms and HIV prevention
- Increased investment in vaccines key to reducing sexually transmitted infections

Behavioural and structural interventions are important to prevent both HIV and STIs
- Brief sexuality-related communication: Recommendations for a public health approach
- Consolidated Guideline on SRHR of women living with HIV (forthcoming)

Integrated and tailored comprehensive and quality SRHR and HIV services improves both SRH and HIV outcomes for people living with HIV and key populations
- Implementing comprehensive HIV and STI programmes with men who have sex with men
- Implementing comprehensive HIV and STI programmes with transgender people

Bacterial and viral STIs and HIV continue to affect millions every day
- WHO guidelines for the treatment of Treponema pallidum (syphilis)
- WHO guidelines for the treatment of Chlamydia trachomatis
- WHO guidelines for the treatment of Genital Herpes Simplex Virus

Elimination of perinatal transmission of HIV and syphilis is a cost-effective life-saving intervention
- WHO recommendations on antenatal care for a positive pregnancy experience
- Elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis: Global guidance on criteria and processes for validation

Rapid diagnosis and prompt treatment can be achieved through enhanced point-of-care diagnostics for STIs and HIV
- Point-Of-Care diagnostic tests for STIs
- Laboratory diagnosis of sexually transmitted infections, including human immunodeficiency virus
- WHO information note on the use of dual HIV/Syphilis rapid diagnostic tests

The development of simple and standardised reporting forms and operational tools for both STIs and HIV is important
- A tool for strengthening STI surveillance at the country level
- Report on global STI surveillance 2015

Specific measures of sexual health and STIs are needed as part of any broader STI or HIV programme
- Measuring sexual health: conceptual and practical considerations and related indicators
- Tool to set and monitor targets for HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for key populations

Young people (10-25) have particularly high rates of sexually transmitted infections – including HIV – and have specific prevention, treatment, care and support needs
- Guidance for HIV testing and counselling and care for adolescents living with HIV
- Sexually transmitted infections among adolescents

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