Country adherence to WHO recommendations to improve the quality of HIV diagnosis: a global policy review

Virginia A Fonner,1 Anita Sands,2 Carmen Figueroa,3 Rachel Baggaley,3 Caitlin Quinn,3 Muhammad S Jamil,3 Cheryl Johnson3

ABSTRACT

Introduction Ensuring a correct and timely HIV diagnosis is critical. WHO publishes guidelines on HIV testing strategies that maximise the likelihood of correctly determining one’s HIV status. A review of national HIV testing policies in 2014 found low adherence to WHO guidelines. We updated this review to determine adherence to current recommendations.

Methods We conducted a comprehensive policy review through April 2018. We extracted data on HIV testing strategies, recommendations on HIV retesting prior to antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)-related HIV testing information. Descriptive analyses disaggregated by region were conducted to ascertain adherence to recommendations and to describe testing strategy characteristics.

Results Of 91 policies included, 26% (n=24/91) adhered to WHO recommendations. Having a two-assay testing strategy to rule-in HIV infection as opposed to the recommended three-assay testing strategy was a major reason for non-adherence. Of 72 country policies providing sufficient information, 31% (n=22) recommended retesting for HIV prior to initiating ART. Of 25 countries and two regions reporting PrEP-related HIV testing guidelines, almost all recommended testing prior to initiating PrEP and every 3 months during PrEP use.

Conclusions Global adherence to WHO recommendations for HIV testing strategies have improved since 2014 but remain low. We found adherence existed on a continuum. Such a system provides insights into how countries can move towards adherence by making relatively minor changes to testing strategies. Guidance from WHO on the role of new HIV testing technologies within testing algorithms and identifying ways to simplify testing guidance is warranted.

INTRODUCTION

HIV testing services (HTS) are the critical gateway to accessing HIV-related care and treatment for those diagnosed as HIV positive and as a means to accessing prevention services for those testing HIV negative. Despite its importance and recent testing scale-up to reach the ‘90-90-90’ targets set by UNAIDS, an estimated 21% of people living with HIV remain unaware of their serostatus.1

The HIV testing, treatment and prevention landscape has recently undergone rapid change. For example, in 2015, WHO recommended initiating antiretroviral therapy (ART) for all individuals living with HIV immediately on receiving an HIV-positive diagnosis, regardless of CD4 cell count (‘test and treat’).2 WHO also recommended the use of oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) as an additional prevention option for individuals at substantial risk of HIV infection.2 Both recommendations bring new significance to HIV testing. With the test and treat approach, establishing correct HIV diagnoses becomes even more critical as an HIV-positive diagnosis becomes the sole criteria for initiating ART.
Providing lifelong ART to someone misdiagnosed as HIV positive has substantial emotional, financial and psycho-social ramifications for the individual, as well as significant reputational and cost implications for programmes. Further, individuals initiating PrEP require HIV testing to confirm they are HIV negative and quarterly HIV testing during PrEP use. The WHO PrEP implementation tool suggests using the same HIV testing strategy, preferably the nationally verified testing algorithm, in the context of PrEP as recommended for HIV testing more generally.

In recent years, in vitro diagnostic medical devices (IVDs) for detection of HIV have improved, making the diagnosis of HIV possible earlier in the course of infection. Quality-assured rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) that detect antibodies to HIV are widely available, which enables HIV testing to be delivered at point of care. This same serological assay principle is also widely used in laboratory settings. Fourth generation HIV antibody/antigen RDTs and immunocassays (IAs) can potentially detect HIV during acute infection, when antibodies to HIV are not yet detectable. Nucleic acid testing (NAT) technologies are becoming more simplified and robust, and therefore more accessible in many settings. Nucleic acid is the first marker of HIV infection that may be detected. Currently, WHO does not have guidance relating to the suitability of NAT technologies for use in HIV testing strategies.

Despite these advances, uncertainty exists for any testing event as no single assay can provide a definitive HIV-positive diagnosis. Since 1997, WHO has recommended countries adopt one of two testing strategies depending on the HIV prevalence in the population undergoing testing—including one for low (<5%) and one for high (≥5%) prevalence settings. When adhered to, and populated with assays meeting 99% sensitivity and 98% specificity, these testing strategies give a positive predictive value of ≥99%. National guidelines outlining HIV testing strategies are critical to ensure HIV testing is carried out accurately and timely. However, a 2014 review of national HIV testing policies from 48 countries found that only 17% of testing strategies adhered to WHO guidelines.

In 2015, WHO released consolidated guidelines on HTS. These guidelines maintained previous recommendations but added more guidance about HIV testing strategies and algorithms, including the order of assays to be performed based on sensitivity and specificity and an emphasis on national verification of testing algorithms. Additionally, the 2015 HTS guidelines highlighted the need to retest individuals newly diagnosed with HIV prior to starting ART, although this had previously been included in WHO guidance and information notes. The need for retesting prior to ART initiation was highlighted due to reports of misdiagnosis and the global shift towards test and treat—making it imperative to provide a correct diagnosis before the initiation of lifelong treatment. Recent mathematical modelling has shown retesting prior to ART initiation to be a cost-saving quality measure in high and low HIV prevalence settings.

Given the millions of HIV tests conducted annually, having testing strategies in place to minimise misdiagnosis while maintaining quality is critical. Prior to 2014 and following the release of the 2015 HTS guidelines, WHO conducted dissemination events at regional and international conferences, provided technical support to countries and engaged partners and donors to support and promote implementation.

Considering the low uptake of WHO recommendations, we sought to update this review and assess adherence to the 2015 WHO recommendations on HIV testing strategies and quality measures, including retesting prior to ART initiation. Additionally, in a subset of countries with guidance on HIV testing among PrEP users, we assessed the implementation of WHO recommended testing strategies among people initiating and/or taking PrEP.

**METHODS**

**Search strategy**

We undertook a comprehensive search of national policy documents pertaining to HTS through searching WHO repositories, governmental and non-governmental websites, and contacting country and regional experts through April 2018 (online supplementary file 1). We included any HTS-relevant policy document, including national guidelines on HIV testing, strategic plans related to HIV, integrated guidelines on the prevention, treatment and care of HIV, and policies pertaining to PrEP. For inclusion, the policy must have reported on either national HIV testing strategy and/or algorithm or an HIV testing strategy in the context of PrEP. There were no restrictions on language; however, policies in languages other than English had limited information extracted, with information on testing strategies prioritised. Date of policy publication was also not restricted. When policies for multiple years were identified for the same country, the most recent version containing relevant information on HTS strategies was included.

**Data extraction**

Data were extracted from each policy by two independent reviewers into standardised coding forms (online supplementary file 2). Differences between coders were resolved through consensus. To prevent misclassification, items were marked as ‘unclear’ during data extraction when lack of translation and/or lack of information prevented complete understanding. Data were extracted within the following categories: (1) policy information (publication year, location, HIV prevalence); (2) HTS strategy (serial/parallel, number of assays, use of tie breaker to rule in HIV infection, mention of sensitivity and specificity in selecting assay order; use of WHO prequalified IVDs; assay names and types, sensitivity/specificity, mention of in-country verification; alignment or misalignment of testing strategy with WHO recommendations; (3) retesting before ART initiation; and (4) HIV testing in the context of PrEP use. The WHO PrEP implementation tool suggested using the same HIV testing strategy, preferably the nationally verified testing algorithm, in the context of PrEP as recommended for HIV testing more generally.7

In recent years, in vitro diagnostic medical devices (IVDs) for detection of HIV have improved, making the diagnosis of HIV possible earlier in the course of infection. Quality-assured rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) that detect antibodies to HIV are widely available, which enables HIV testing to be delivered at point of care. This same serological assay principle is also widely used in laboratory settings. Fourth generation HIV antibody/antigen RDTs and immunocassays (IAs) can potentially detect HIV during acute infection, when antibodies to HIV are not yet detectable. Nucleic acid testing (NAT) technologies are becoming more simplified and robust, and therefore more accessible in many settings. Nucleic acid is the first marker of HIV infection that may be detected. Currently, WHO does not have guidance relating to the suitability of NAT technologies for use in HIV testing strategies.

Despite these advances, uncertainty exists for any testing event as no single assay can provide a definitive HIV-positive diagnosis. Since 1997, WHO has recommended countries adopt one of two testing strategies depending on the HIV prevalence in the population undergoing testing—including one for low (<5%) and one for high (≥5%) prevalence settings. When adhered to, and populated with assays meeting 99% sensitivity and 98% specificity, these testing strategies give a positive predictive value of ≥99%. National guidelines outlining HIV testing strategies are critical to ensure HIV testing is carried out accurately and timely. However, a 2014 review of national HIV testing policies from 48 countries found that only 17% of testing strategies adhered to WHO guidelines.

In 2015, WHO released consolidated guidelines on HTS. These guidelines maintained previous recommendations but added more guidance about HIV testing strategies and algorithms, including the order of assays to be performed based on sensitivity and specificity and an emphasis on national verification of testing algorithms. Additionally, the 2015 HTS guidelines highlighted the need to retest individuals newly diagnosed with HIV prior to starting ART, although this had previously been included in WHO guidance and information notes. The need for retesting prior to ART initiation was highlighted due to reports of misdiagnosis and the global shift towards test and treat—making it imperative to provide a correct diagnosis before the initiation of lifelong treatment. Recent mathematical modelling has shown retesting prior to ART initiation to be a cost-saving quality measure in high and low HIV prevalence settings.

Given the millions of HIV tests conducted annually, having testing strategies in place to minimise misdiagnosis while maintaining quality is critical. Prior to 2014 and following the release of the 2015 HTS guidelines, WHO conducted dissemination events at regional and international conferences, provided technical support to countries and engaged partners and donors to support and promote implementation.

Considering the low uptake of WHO recommendations, we sought to update this review and assess adherence to the 2015 WHO recommendations on HIV testing strategies and quality measures, including retesting prior to ART initiation. Additionally, in a subset of countries with guidance on HIV testing among PrEP users, we assessed the implementation of WHO recommended testing strategies among people initiating and/or taking PrEP.

**METHODS**

**Search strategy**

We undertook a comprehensive search of national policy documents pertaining to HTS through searching WHO repositories, governmental and non-governmental websites, and contacting country and regional experts through April 2018 (online supplementary file 1). We included any HTS-relevant policy document, including national guidelines on HIV testing, strategic plans related to HIV, integrated guidelines on the prevention, treatment and care of HIV, and policies pertaining to PrEP. For inclusion, the policy must have reported on either a national HIV testing strategy and/or algorithm or an HIV testing strategy in the context of PrEP. There were no restrictions on language; however, policies in languages other than English had limited information extracted, with information on testing strategies prioritised. Date of policy publication was also not restricted. When policies for multiple years were identified for the same country, the most recent version containing relevant information on HTS strategies was included.

**Data extraction**

Data were extracted from each policy by two independent reviewers into standardised coding forms (online supplementary file 2). Differences between coders were resolved through consensus. To prevent misclassification, items were marked as ‘unclear’ during data extraction when lack of translation and/or lack of information prevented complete understanding. Data were extracted within the following categories: (1) policy information (publication year, location, HIV prevalence); (2) HTS strategy (serial/parallel, number of assays, use of tie breaker to rule in HIV infection, mention of sensitivity and specificity in selecting assay order; use of WHO prequalified IVDs; assay names and types, sensitivity/specificity, mention of in-country verification; alignment or misalignment of testing strategy with WHO recommendations; (3) retesting before ART initiation; and (4) HIV testing in the context of PrEP use.
context of PrEP (testing strategies/algorithms, frequency and description of testing).

Analysis
Adherence to WHO recommendations was assessed using criteria set forth in the 2012 WHO Guidance, ‘Service delivery approaches to HIV testing and counselling (HTC): A strategic policy framework’ and expanded on in the 2015 WHO Guidance, ‘Consolidated guidelines on HIV testing services’ (box 1).

Descriptive analyses, disaggregated by WHO region, were conducted to determine rates of adherence to WHO recommendations; use of serial or parallel testing strategies; number, type, brand and prequalification status of assays used, and use of the assay 3 test result as a tie breaker to rule-in HIV infection. Analyses were conducted in Microsoft Excel and data were visualised using Tableau V.2018.

Categorisation
Each testing strategy was assessed for adherence to WHO guidance using the information available. When assigning adherence, reviewers assessed alignment with WHO criteria and listed primary reasons for misalignment. Primary reasons for non-adherence were qualitatively assessed and divided into minor and major issues (box 2). The major and minor categories were determined by consensus based on the severity of issues as they pertain to the potential for misdiagnosis, as well as cost and quality concerns. For example, parallel testing was classified as a ‘major issue’ because it is costlier than serial testing and leads to a greater number of discrepant results, thus contributing to other quality issues and further resource increases.

Categorisation of testing strategies included:
- Fully adherent: no minor or major issues identified.
- Mostly adherent: one minor issue identified.
- Somewhat not adherent: two or more minor issues identified.
- Not adherent: one or more major issues identified.

To determine the proportion of countries adherent to WHO recommendations for HIV testing, country policies categorised as ‘full adherent’ and ‘mostly adherent’ were considered adherent and those categorised as ‘somewhat not adherent’ or ‘not adherent’ were considered non-adherent.

RESULTS
National policy documents related to HTS were identified for 146 countries. Of these, 55 were excluded from analysis for (1) not containing specific information on HIV testing strategies (eg, no details on order of assays, assays used, or algorithm (n=34)) and (2) an inability to extract information due to translation issues (n=21). Of the remaining 91 policy documents, each contained at least one piece of required information, but only 76 provided enough information to assess alignment with WHO HIV testing strategies. Twenty-seven policy documents contained information on PrEP-related HIV testing.

Of 91 countries providing data on HIV testing strategies, 32 were from the Africa region (AFRO), 11 from Eastern Mediterranean region (EMRO), 14 from the European region (EURO), 16 from the region of the
Minor issues of non-adherence

- Performing unnecessary Assay 3 following repeated discrepant Assay 1/Assay 2 results in low prevalence settings (should have been ruled HIV-negative after second round of discrepant Assay 1/Assay 2, or HIV-inconclusive if Assay 1 was 4th generation assay)
- Not repeating Assay 1/Assay 2 at all upon discrepant results, or not repeating Assay 1/Assay 2 immediately upon discrepant results (e.g., waiting 14 days instead)
- Not mentioning a specific Assay 3 but alluding to an additional assay performed at a laboratory
- Not using WHO prequalified diagnostics in testing algorithm

Major issues of non-adherence

- Not having Assay 3 to resolve discrepant A1/A2 in high prevalence settings
- Using a parallel testing strategy
- Reporting an HIV-positive diagnosis based on reactive test results from only two assays in a low prevalence setting
- Using the result of Assay 3 as a tie-breaker to rule-in HIV infection

Adherence to HIV testing strategies

Overall, 26% (n=24/91) of national testing strategies were either adherent or mostly adherent to WHO recommendations, and 57% (n=52/91) of strategies were non-adherent. The remaining 16% (n=15/91) did not contain enough information to determine adherence. In high HIV prevalence countries, 50% of policies (n=6/12) were adherent or mostly adherent, and the most common major reason for non-adherence was lack of an assay 3 to resolve discrepant assay 1 and assay 2 results.

In low-prevalence countries (n=79), 23% of national strategies (n=18/79) were adherent or mostly adherent, 59% (n=47/79) were non-adherent and 18% (n=14/79) did not contain enough information to determine adherence. Among low-prevalence countries, the most common major reason for non-adherence was diagnosing HIV based on reactive results for only two assays (n=35/47).

When stratified by WHO region, SEARO had the highest rate of adherence (n=5/8, 63%), followed by EMRO (n=5/11, 45%) and AFRO (n=9/32, 28%; table 1; figure 2). AMRO had the lowest rate of compliance (n=1/16, 6%), mostly due to testing strategies that reported HIV-positive diagnosis based on reactive results for only two assays. Online supplementary file 3 contains adherence information for all national policies contributing data.

When restricted to the subset of countries with policies included in the 2014 review that also had an updated policy available for the current review (n=21), the proportion adhering to WHO guidelines in 2014 was 9.5% (n=2/21) compared with 38% in the current review (n=8/21). The majority of countries moving from non-adherence to adherence from 2014 to the present came from sub-Saharan Africa (n=5/7).

Characteristics of testing strategies and testing algorithms

Of included policies, 84% (n=76/91) used a serial testing strategy, 16% (n=9/91) used a testing strategy involving some element of parallel testing, and in 7% (n=6/91) it was unclear whether a serial or parallel testing strategy was used. Twenty-seven per cent of strategies (n=25/91) contained two assays, 58% contained three assays (n=53/91), 6% contained more than three assays (n=6/91) and in 8% (n=7/91) the number of assays used

---

**Box 2 Minor and major issues with HIV testing strategy/algorithm non-adherence**

**Minor issues of non-adherence**

- Performing unnecessary Assay 3 following repeated discrepant Assay 1/Assay 2 results in low prevalence settings (should have been ruled HIV-negative after second round of discrepant Assay 1/Assay 2, or HIV-inconclusive if Assay 1 was 4th generation assay)
- Not repeating Assay 1/Assay 2 at all upon discrepant results, or not repeating Assay 1/Assay 2 immediately upon discrepant results (e.g., waiting 14 days instead)
- Not mentioning a specific Assay 3 but alluding to an additional assay performed at a laboratory
- Not using WHO prequalified diagnostics in testing algorithm

**Major issues of non-adherence**

- Not having Assay 3 to resolve discrepant A1/A2 in high prevalence settings
- Using a parallel testing strategy
- Reporting an HIV-positive diagnosis based on reactive test results from only two assays in a low prevalence setting
- Using the result of Assay 3 as a tie-breaker to rule-in HIV infection

---

**Figure 1** (A) Countries with HIV testing services policies identified and included in analysis (n=91). (B) Countries with policies identified containing information on HIV testing in the context of pre-exposure prophylaxis (n=27).
Table 1  HIV testing strategy characteristics by WHO region

| WHO regional office for | Adherence to WHO rec, n (%) | Use of tie breaker, N (%) | Retesting prior to ART, N (%) |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Africa (n=32)          | 9 (28%)                     | 6 (19%)                   | 16 (50%)                      |
| Eastern Mediterranean (n=11) | 5 (45%)                | 2 (18%)                   | 4 (35%)                       |
| Europe (n=14)          | 3 (21%)                     | 0 (0%)                    | 0 (0%)                        |
| Americans and the Caribbean (n=16) | 1 (6%)              | 5 (16%)                   | 1 (6%)                        |
| Southeast Asia (n=8)   | 5 (63%)                     | 1 (13%)                   | 1 (13%)                       |
| Western Pacific (n=10) | 1 (10%)                     | 0 (0%)                    | 0 (0%)                        |

was unclear. In some cases, a third assay was not specified but was alluded to in referring specimens to a laboratory for further testing, although often the specifics of such referrals were unclear. For testing strategies containing more than three assays, often this occurred when testing strategies recommended that samples be sent to a laboratory after performing two assays, with multiple assays recommended on reaching the reference laboratory.

Few policies contained the specific testing algorithms used in testing strategies. Only 32% of policy documents (n=29/91) mentioned specific product names. Sixteen policies mentioned the need to verify the testing algorithm or specified that laboratories should verify the algorithm, and only one national testing policy provided outcomes of the testing algorithm verification study itself. Of 29 policies including information on assays (ie, specific product names), all but one included WHO prequalified products.

Seventy per cent (n=64/91) of policies provided the assay types used, for example, RDT, IA and western blotting. Of 64 policies reporting assay types, RDTs and IAs were most common. Thirty-one per cent (n=20/64) included western blotting as an option for either assay 2 or assay 3 (most commonly assay 3) and 13% (n=8/64) included NAT as an option for assay 2 or assay 3. Use of western blotting was common in EURO, EMRO and AMRO. Several high-income and middle-income countries reported using NAT technologies.

Overall, 15% (n=14/91) of testing strategies used results of assay 3 as a tie breaker to rule-in HIV infection (table 1); however, three specified the use of western blot or NAT as assay 3 to rule-in HIV infection. Most cases of using assay 3 as a tie breaker to rule-in HIV infection occurred in AFRO, mostly from West and North Africa (50%, n=7/14), and AMRO (36%, n=5/14). Of note, several countries referred to assay 3 as a ‘tie breaker’ although it was used correctly, that is, to rule-out HIV infection.

Figure 2  Adherence to WHO recommendations for HIV testing strategy by region. Adherence to WHO testing recommendations for each WHO region. Colour shows details about compliance categorisation (full adherence=no major or minor issues; mostly adherent=one minor issues; somewhat not adherent=two or more minor issues; not adherent=one or more major issues).

Other issues with HIV testing strategies
Several policies specified different testing strategies for the purposes of diagnosis and surveillance, which contradicts WHO recommendations to use the same testing strategies for both purposes. Additionally, some policies contained testing strategies where the number of assays varied depending on certain circumstances, such as the availability of assay 3 and whether signs and symptoms of HIV infection are present. Several low-prevalence countries included a high-prevalence testing strategy when working with key populations and a separate low-prevalence testing strategy for the general population.

Retesting prior to art initiation
Of 91 policies, 72 provided information on HIV retesting prior to starting ART (19 were excluded due to translation issues or for not having enough information). Of 72 policies, 31% (n=22) required or recommended retesting prior to ART initiation, and 86% of these (19/22) were published after 2015. The majority of policies requiring retesting were from AFRO (73%, n=16/22). The remaining 49 policies either did not require retesting prior to ART or did not specify whether retesting was required. Some policies required only written proof of an HIV diagnosis prior to initiating ART and only recommended retesting if written confirmation was unavailable. Two national strategies required retesting but used a parallel testing strategy as opposed to a serial testing
strategy for retesting, which differed from national policy. Other countries specified that retesting should be performed with a different specimen and a different testing provider, in alignment with WHO recommendations.

**HIV testing in the context of PrEP**

Twenty-five national policies and two regional policies (from the European Union and Australia/New Zealand) contained information regarding HIV testing in the context of PrEP. Of 27 policies, almost all (n=24/27) recommended HIV testing occur at PrEP initiation and every 3 months while taking PrEP. The remaining three policies did not specify a schedule for HIV testing in the context of PrEP. Several policies additionally recommended retesting for HIV after 1 month of PrEP use and then 3 months thereafter. Two policies did not specify a testing schedule for PrEP users. Only four policies explicitly stated that HIV testing in the context of PrEP should follow the national verified HIV testing algorithm. Other policies did not specify what testing strategy or algorithm should be used, and one policy outlined a testing strategy for PrEP initiators and PrEP users that differed from the national testing strategy. Specifically, in this policy if a potential PrEP user had a non-reactive fourth generation antibody/antigen assay but reported symptoms of acute infection, NAT testing was recommended. Several other countries emphasised the need to assess signs and symptoms of acute HIV infection prior to initiating PrEP, and if present, to defer PrEP initiation until reviewing the result of further testing. Many high-income countries stipulated the use of fourth generation antigen/antibody assay for PrEP users and cautioned against the use of oral fluid-based serological assays. Policies from several countries included specific information on PrEP in their ARV guidelines, but clarified that PrEP was still under consideration for use in the country and therefore not yet available. Online supplementary file 3 contains data on policies providing information on HIV testing in the context of PrEP.

**DISCUSSION**

This review found that slightly over a quarter of countries are fully or mostly adherent to WHO HIV testing recommendations and that one-third recommend retesting for HIV prior to ART initiation. We found improvements in national HIV testing policies’ adherence to WHO guidelines as compared with a global review conducted in 2014.10 Specifically, rates of using the result of assay 3 as a tie breaker to rule-in HIV infection have declined. Additionally, a considerable proportion of HIV testing policies published after the 2015 WHO HTS recommendations adopted policy changes to maintain alignment with global guidelines, including adding requirements to retest newly diagnosed HIV-positive individuals for HIV prior to ART initiation and to regularly test PrEP users for HIV in a schedule adherent to WHO recommendations.

Overall adherence remains low. High-prevalence countries had proportionally higher rates of adherence than low-prevalence countries. Notably, of 12 strategies for high-prevalence countries identified, several have recently fallen below the 5% prevalence threshold.1 As HIV prevalence continues to decline globally, countries currently using a high-prevalence strategy may need to switch to a low-prevalence strategy, which WHO recently began encouraging countries to do.123 124 Eventually moving all countries to a low-prevalence testing strategy requiring reactive results from three assays to confirm HIV infection might be needed. Additionally, several countries noted that while the national HIV prevalence is below 5%, prevalence among key populations (eg, sex workers, men who have sex with men) is high (>5%), and thus policies suggested using a high-prevalence strategy among key populations. However, in these cases, it is unclear how the testing facility and/or tester would be aware of someone’s membership in a key population that would warrant using a different testing strategy.

We found that determination of adherence was often not a clear distinction, and adherence was more accurately defined using a continuum with several levels of gradation. Many policies contained strategies that were close to adhering but included minor deviations. Conversely, other countries outlined testing strategies that clearly contradicted WHO recommendations. As a result, a more nuanced categorisation scheme was developed. Using the continuum of adherence framework, making relatively minor changes to many strategies could greatly improve alignment.

There are several adaptations countries could undertake within national testing strategies to improve adherence. First and foremost, using IVDs that have been stringently assessed (such as by a founding member of the Global Harmonization Task Force or that are WHO prequalified) ensures the testing algorithm contains assays that have been assessed for quality, safety, and performance. Second, verifying the testing algorithm to ensure that assays do not share false reactive results would improve testing quality. A recent study assessing the performance of different testing algorithms across six sites in sub-Saharan Africa found suboptimal performance of multiple RDTs with site-specific differences, thus highlighting the critical importance of verifying algorithms.125

We found that approximately 30% of HIV testing strategies used western blot and over 10% used NAT in testing algorithms. WHO recently released guidance encouraging countries to move away from using western blotting and line IAs in HIV testing algorithms in favour of simpler tests.124 126 Further guidance regarding the use of NAT in testing algorithms would be beneficial. For example, undetectable HIV viral load should not be used to rule out HIV infection as it is possible to be HIV positive with undetectable HIV viral load. There is a theoretical possibility that NAT may be used to rule in HIV infection, but clinical utility studies to support this
intended use are ongoing. Regarding HIV testing in the context of PrEP, the WHO PrEP implementation tool notes that using assays capable of identifying acute infection, such as NAT, where feasible may offer additional benefits as those seeking PrEP could be at heightened risk of having acute HIV infection. However, to date, WHO has not issued recommendations on the use of NAT in the context of PrEP.

The majority of non-adherence issues for low-prevalence settings centred on diagnosing HIV infection using only two assays. This deviation has the potential to increase the occurrence of misdiagnosis, particularly false-positive diagnosis. According to previous modelling by WHO, using reactive test results from two assays in low-prevalence settings would lead to reduced positive predictive value as low as 90.8% in settings where prevalence is 0.1%, well below the 99% positive predictive value recommended. In a population of one million people who are unaware of their HIV status, this could cause up to 100 individuals to be placed on ART who are HIV negative.

While correct use of assay 3 results was poor in low HIV prevalence settings, many policies included strategies that used assay 3 to resolve discrepant test results from the first two assays. Thus, changing the testing strategy so that an assay 3 is used to confirm HIV infection for individuals who are reactive on the first two assays may be feasible. Implementing this shift across settings would increase adherence with WHO recommendations from 26% to approximately 50%.

For high-prevalence settings, the primary issue was not having an assay three to resolve discrepant results from the first two assays. While misdiagnosis in these scenarios is not of primary concern, lacking an assay 3 to resolve discrepancies leads to important missed opportunities to provide a definitive HIV-negative diagnosis to those at ongoing risk for HIV and offer PrEP if warranted. Adding an assay 3 to the testing strategy or putting in clear referral mechanisms to a laboratory that could conduct an assay 3 is needed. For countries using an assay 3 inappropriately to rule in HIV infection, strategies could be altered to allow assay 3 to rule out HIV infection only.

Minor issues identified in strategies, such as unnecessarily using an assay 3 to resolve discrepant results from assay 1 and assay 2 or not repeating the first and second assays in case of discrepant results, if corrected, could improve efficiency and cost related to HIV testing.

Given the relatively low rates of adherence to WHO recommendations found in this review, more understanding of why countries choose or choose not to adopt WHO HIV testing recommendations is needed. Given the unique context, resources and processes that guide national policy formation, having more pragmatic data on these critical aspects could help inform future guideline development. Although we did not collect such data, our results highlight specific areas of potential inquiry, such as investigating why so many countries fail to use a third assay in their national testing strategies. A study of country adaptation of WHO guidelines for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV found that factors such as perceived complexity, cost, equity and existing healthcare infrastructure all factored into policy decision-making. Such a study on countries’ development of HIV testing strategies is warranted. Research is also needed to understand the effectiveness of WHO’s strategies for dissemination of HTS guidelines as it is possible that countries are unaware of the most recent changes to global recommendations.

The HIV testing strategies recommended by WHO require certain costs and resources. The overall perceived cost may be a barrier to widespread implementation of standardised HIV testing strategies. It is for this reason that WHO recommends a differentiatied HTS delivery approach, including community-based testing via a ‘test for triage’ and HIV self-testing, which work to expand access to HIV testing while not compromising the need to have the full testing strategy available at all testing sites. Both a ‘test for triage’ and HIV self-testing offer a single RDT administered in a community setting with linkage available to facility-based testing for the confirmation of HIV diagnoses and to clinical care when needed.

**Strengths and limitations**

This review identified HTS policy documents from over 140 countries and analysed policies from over 90 countries. The review used robust searching methods and standardised, systematic data extraction. Despite the study team’s comprehensive efforts, it is possible that existing policy documents were not identified as only policies that were publicly available or received through government contacts and country offices via WHO were included. Additionally, because of the nature of the documents studied, this review used a non-automated search strategy; nonetheless, we used keywords when possible, making the search strategy defined and repeatable.

Additionally, we did not ascertain country implementation of HTS policies. Countries might be implementing HIV testing strategies different from the ones outlined in official policy documents, thus having a non-adherent testing strategy as written policy with adherent implementation or vice versa. Although we did not include subnational policy documents, it is possible that decentralisation has led to variations in testing strategies at the subnational level that were missed by this review. Few countries provided specific testing algorithms in national policy documents, which limited our ability to assess adherence with WHO recommendations on testing algorithms. Additionally, for several data collection points, including national/regional verification of testing algorithm, we were only able to assess whether a policy provided specific mention of a procedure for verification and not whether the verification actually occurred; it is possible procedures such as algorithm verification are occurring but are not being included in policy documents. Finally, the inability to translate all
policy documents was a limitation; when possible, translations of testing strategies were prioritised.

CONCLUSIONS
Recent changes to the HIV prevention and treatment landscape, including ‘test and treat’ and PrEP availability, have elevated the importance of receiving a correct HIV diagnosis—both HIV positive and HIV negative. Following WHO recommendations for HIV testing strategies, performing verification of testing algorithms, and using appropriate assays can ensure accurate HIV diagnosis in a cost-efficient and time-efficient manner. While this review found a significant proportion of countries not adhering to WHO recommendations, adherence existed on a continuum. Our findings suggest that many countries are moving in the direction of increasing adherence and these efforts must be supported and lead to implementation. It is imperative that this trend continues, and more countries adopt WHO recommendations to ensure quality HIV testing programmes, especially in regards to requiring HIV retesting prior to ART initiation and implementing HIV testing in accordance with national guidelines for PrEP users. Understanding reasons behind countries decisions to adopt or not adopt WHO recommendations could help identify potential solutions. Ways to simplify the WHO testing guidance are warranted, such as moving to one HIV testing strategy for all settings.

Twitter Cheryl Johnson @casejohn

Acknowledgements The authors thank all country and regional contacts for providing data for the review. They also thank Deborah Adeyemi for help with reference management.

Contributors CJ and RB devised the review. VF, CQ, and CJ designed the protocol. CQ conducted the search, and VF, CJ, AS, and CQ conducted the screening and data extraction. CJ and RB supervised the review. VF qualitatively synthesised the findings and conducted descriptive analyses. VF drafted the manuscript with input from AS, CF, MJ, RB, CJ, and CQ. All authors reviewed the draft, provided critical review, and read and approved the final manuscript.

Funding Funding for this review was provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (award number OPP1177903) and by the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through World Health Organization and USAID’s Consolidated Grant, Agreements US-2015-0839 and US-2016-940.

Map disclaimer The depiction of boundaries on the map(s) in this article do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of BMJ (or any member of its group) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, jurisdiction or area or of its authorities. The map(s) are provided without any warranty of any kind, either express or implied.

Competing interests The authors declare no competing interests. The contents in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of the World Health Organization.

Patient and public involvement Patients and/or the public were not involved in the design, conduct, or reporting, or dissemination plans of this research.

Patient consent for publication Not required.

Provenance and peer review Not commissioned; externally peer reviewed.

Data availability statement Data may be obtained from a third party and some data are publicly available. Most policies included in this review are available through the following websites: (1) https://aidsfree.usaid.gov/resources/guidance-data/hts, (2) http://www.hivpolicywatch.org/database.html. If information on a policy cannot be found through these sources, please contact the authors of this review for additional information.

Open access This is an open access article distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Unported (CC BY 4.0) license, which permits others to copy, redistribute, remix, and transform and build upon this work for any purpose, provided the original work is properly cited, a link to the licence is given, and indication of whether changes were made. See: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

ORCID iD
Virginia A Fonner http://orcid.org/0000-0002-9005-3549

REFERENCES
1 UNAIDS. Global HIV & AIDS statistics — 2019 fact sheet, 2019. Available: http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/fact-sheet [Accessed 13 Feb 2019]
2 World Health Organization. Consolidated guidelines on the use of antiretroviral drugs for treating and preventing HIV infection: recommendations for a public health approach. World Health Organization, 2016.
3 Seeley J, Ogunde N, et al. HIV and identity: the experience of AIDS support group members who unexpectedly tested HIV negative in Uganda. Social Health Illn 2012;34:330–44.
4 Khan S, Mafara E, Pasipamire M, et al. Identification of misdiagnosed HIV clients in an early access to art for all implementation study in Swaziland. J Int AIDS Soc 2017;20:21756.
5 Shanks L, Klarkowski D, O’Brien DP. False positive HIV diagnoses in resource limited settings: operational lessons learned for HIV programmes. PLoS One 2013;8:e59906.
6 Eaton JW, Johnson CC, Gregson S. The Cost of Not Retesting: Human Immunodeficiency Virus Misdiagnosis in the Antiretroviral Therapy “Test-and-Offer” Era. Clin Infect Dis 2017;65:522–5.
7 World Health Organization. Who implementation tool for pre-exposure prophylaxis of HIV infection. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO, 2017.
8 Parekh BS, Ou C-Y, Fonjungo PN, et al. Diagnosis of human immunodeficiency virus infection. Clin Microbiol Rev 2019;32:e00064–18.
9 World Health Organization. In response to recent MSF publication on quality of HIV test kits, 2017. Available: https://www.who.int/hiv/mediacentre/news/hiv-testing-quality-q-a/en/index2.html [Accessed 26 April 2019].
10 Flynn DJ, Sands C, Wong A. An analysis of 48 national HIV testing and counselling policies. consolidated guidelines on HIV testing services; 5Cs: consent, confidentiality, counselling, correct results and connection 2015. Geneva, Switzerland: Geneva, 2015.
11 World Health Organization. Consolidated guidelines on HIV testing services: 5Cs: consent, confidentiality, counselling, correct results and connection. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2015.
12 World Health Organization. Service delivery approaches to HIV testing and counselling (HTC): a strategic policy framework. Geneva, 2012.
13 World Health Organization. Who reminds national programmes to retest all newly diagnosed people with HIV, 2014. Available: https://www.who.int/hiv/pub/vct/retest-newly-diagnosed-phv-full/en/ [Accessed 24 April 2019].
14 Johnson CC, Fonner V, Sands A, et al. To err is human, to correct is public health: a systematic review examining poor quality testing and misdiagnosis of HIV status. J Int AIDS Soc 2017;20:21755.
15 Lang R, Charlton C, Beckthold B, et al. HIV misdiagnosis: a root cause analysis leading to improvements in HIV diagnosis and patient care. J Clin Virol 2017;96:84–8.
16 World Health Organization. Guideline on when to start antiretroviral therapy and on pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2015.
17 World Health Organization. Service delivery approaches to HIV testing and counselling (HTC): a strategic HTC programme framework, 2012.
18 Manual de procedimientos para La detección Y diagnóstico de la infección POR VIH. Gobierno de Chile: Ministerio de Salud, 2009.
19 Normes et Directives Nationales de Conseil Depistage de L’infection a VIH au Burkina Faso. Gouvernement de Burkina Faso: Ministere de la Sante, 2008.
20 Guide du Depistage et Conseil du VIH la l’initiative du Pretestaire. Gouvernement de la Republic Centrafricaine Ministere de la Sante Publique, 2010.
21 Guide de Prise en Charge Integre du VIH en Republique Democratique du Congo. Gouvernement de la Republique Democratique Du Congo: Ministere de la Sante Publique, 2017.

BMJ Global Health: first published as 10.1136/bmjgh-2019-001939 on 5 May 2020. Downloaded from http://gh.bmj.com/ on May 26, 2020 by guest. Protected by copyright.
22 Directivas Nacionales D’Utilisation des Antirétroviraux Pour la Prévention et le Traitement du VIH. Gouvernement de la República Du Burundi: Ministère de la Sante, 2016.
23 Manual Técnico Para o Diagnóstico da Infeção Pelo HIV. Government of Brazil: Ministério da Saúde, 2014.
24 HIV Screening and Testing Guide Government of Canada. Public health agency of Canada, 2012.
25 Guía para la realización de pruebas para el diagnóstico de las ITS/VIH. Gouvernement of Dominican Republic: Ministerio de Salud Pública, 2014.
26 Diagnóstico de VIH: Recomendaciones para el asesoramiento pre y post test. Government of Argentina: Ministerio de Salud, 2015.
27 National HIV Testing and Counselling Guideline. Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 2013.
28 HIV Plan: Government of Belgium: Ministers of Public Health, 2014.
29 Guía de práctica clínica (GPI) basada en la evidencia científica para la atención de la infección por VIH/Sida en adolescentes (con 13 años de edad o más) y adultos. Government of Colombia, Ministerio de Salud y Protección Social, 2014.
30 Guía nacional de consejería en VIH/Sida. Gouvernement of Ecuador: Ministerio de Salud Pública, 2011.
31 National Guidelines On Clinical Care and Antiretroviral Drugs for Treating And Preventing HIV Infection. Government of Egypt: Ministry of health, 2015.
32 Ogaz DF, Connor M, Gill N. HIV testing: increasing uptake among people who may have undiagnosed HIV. NICE guideline. Government of England: Public Health England Health, 2016.
33 Guidelines for HIV infection screening and management of the initiation of treatment for HIV-positive patients. Government of Estonia, Ministry of Social Affairs, 2013.
34 National Guidelines for Comprehensive HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment. Government of Ethiopia: Federal Ministry of Health, 2015.
35 HIV Care and Antiretroviral Therapy Guidelines. Government of Fiji: Ministry of Health, 2013.
36 Dépistage de l’infection par le VIH en France: Modalités de réalisation des tests de dépistage. Government of France: Haute Autorité de Santé, 2008.
37 National Policy Guidelines on HIV AND AIDS. Government of Gambia: National AIDS Council, 2014.
38 Integrated Strategy for HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and other sexually transmitted infections. Government of Germany: Federal Ministry of Health, 2016.
39 Κατανομή των νομίμων της τιμής της HIV ιατροδημικοποίησης σε κλινικά και μη κλινικά πληθυσμό. Government of Greece: ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΕΛΕΓΧΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΡΟΛΗΝΗΣ ΝΟΜΙΜΩΝ, 2014.
40 Manual de Atención Integral al Adulto y Adolescente Con VIH. Government of Honduras: Secretaría de Salud, 2013.
41 National Guidelines for HIV Testing. Government of India: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, 2016.
42 Circular of the Director General. Guidelines for carrying out HIV tests. Government of Israel, Minister of Health, 2013.
43 Guidelines on use of antiretroviral drugs for treating and preventing HIV infection in Kenya. Government of Kenya, Ministry of Health, 2016.
44 HIV Testing Guide. Government of Lao People’s Democratic Republic, year not specified.
45 National Guidelines on the use of antiretroviral therapy for HIV prevention and treatment. Government of Lesotho, Ministry of Health, 2016.
46 HIV Voluntary Counseling and Testing Services: A Guideline for Service Providers. Government of Libya, 2010.
47 Malawi HIV Tsetsing Services Guidelines. Government of Malawi: Ministry of Health, 2016.
48 Guideline for Anonymous and voluntary HIV screening. Government of Malaysia, Ministry of Health, 2014.
49 Guía de Detección y Diagnóstico del VIH. Government of Mexico, 2011.
50 Utilisation des Services de Dépistage du VIH. Government of Morocco, 2010.
51 Guidelines for the Clinical Management of HIV Infection in Myanmar. Ministerio de Salud Pública y Deportes, Government of Myanmar, 2017.
52 Nauru Global AIDS Progress Report. Government of Nauru: Ministry of Health, 2015.
53 National Consolidated Guideline forTreating and Preventing HIV in Nepal. Government of Nepal: Ministry of Health and Population, 2014.
54 Guía de Procedimientos para el Diagnóstico y Seguimiento de VIH. Government of Nicaragua: Ministerio De Salud, 2012.
55 National Guidelines for HIV Prevention Treatment and Care. Government of Nigeria: Federal Ministry of Health, 2016.
56 HIV Management in Oman: A guide for health care workers. Government of Oman: Ministry of Health, 2015.
57 HIV Testing Services (HTS) Guidelines. Government of Pakistan, 2017.
58 National Guidelines for HIV Counselling and Testing in Papua New Guinea. Government of Papua New Guinea: Department of Health, 2010.
59 Protocolo Integrado de VIH e ITS en Atención Primaria. Government of Paraguay, 2012.
60 Diagnostico e Rastreio Laboratorial da Infeção pelo Vírus da Imunodeficiência Humana (VIH). Government of Portugal, 2014.
61 Guidelines for HIV Tetsing Services in Sierra Leone Government of Sierra Leone. National AIDS Control Programme: Ministry of Health and Sanitation, 2017.
62 Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Government of Singapore, 2011.
63 Somalia HIV Testing and Counseling Policy. Government of Somalia, 2017.
64 Guía de Recomendaciones para el diagnóstico Precoz del VIH en El ámbito sanitario. Government of Spain, Ministerio de Sanidad, Servicios Sociales e Igualdad, 2014.
65 National HIV Testing Guidelines- 2016. Government of Sri Lanka: Ministry of Health, 2016.
66 National Consolidated HIV Testing Services Guidelines. Government of Sudan: Federal Ministry of Health, 2016.
67 HIV Testing algorithm. Government of Syria, 2014.
68 Thailand National Guidelines on HIV/AIDS Treatment and Prevention, Government of Thailand, 2017.
69 National Guidelines for HIV Testing and Counseling Services. Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan: Ministry of Public Health, 2013.
70 Algorithm for diagnosis of HIV in people >18 months of age. Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 2016.
71 Standard Operating Procedures for HIV Testing and Counseling (HTC). Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia: Ministry of Health, 2012.
72 Swaziland Integrated HIV Management Guidelines. Government of the Kingdom of eSwatini Ministry of Health, 2018.
73 Nationales des Diagnostic Biologique de L’infection VIH. Government of the people’s Democratic Republic of Algeria: Ministère de la Santé de la Population et de la Reforme Hospitalière, 2013.
74 HIV and STI tests Information and Standards. Government of the Republic of Austria, 2013.
75 Handbook of the Botswana 2016 Integrated HIV Clinical Care Guidelines. Government of the Republic of Botswana: Ministry of Health, 2016.
76 National Guideline on the Prevention and Management of HIV in Cameroon. Government of the Republic of Cameroon: Ministry of Public Health, 2016.
77 Plan Estratégico Nacional Para la Prevención y el Control de las ITS. Ministry of Health and Social Development, 2016.
78 National Guidelines of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV. Government of the Republic of Congo: Ministry of Health, 2014.
79 Normes et Directives Nationales pour le Conseil et le Dépistage Du VIH. Government of the Republic of Haiti: Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population, 2015.
80 Implementation Guidelines for Counseling and HIV Test. Government of the Republic of Indonesia Ministry of Health, 2014.
81 On approval of the Rules for mandatory confidential medical examination on the presence of HIV infection of persons according to clinical and epidemiological indications. Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan: Minister of Health and Social Development, 2015.
82 HIV Testing Algorithm. Government of the Republic of Moldova, 2018.
83 HIV/AIDS strategy for the Republic of Montenegro. Government of the Republic of Montenegro, 2005.
84 National Guidelines for Antiretroviral Therapy. Government of the Republic of Namibia Ministry of Health and Social Services, 2016.
85 National Guidelines for Prevention and Management of HIV and STIs. Government of the Republic of Rwanda: Ministry of Health, 2016.
86 Politique, Normes et Protocoles des Services Depistage du VIH. Government of the Republic of Senegal, 2017.
87 National HIV Testing services: Policy. Government of the Republic of South Africa: Department of Health, 2016.
88 Consolidated Clinical Guidelines on Use of Antiretroviral Drugs for HIV Treatment and Prevention Government of the Republic of South Sudan: Ministry of Health; 2017.91. National HIV Testing and
Counselling Policy. Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago: Ministry of Health, 2017.

90 National HIV Testing and Counselling Policy. Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago: Ministry of Health, 2012.

91 National Guidelines for Management of HIV and AIDS. Government of the United Republic of Tanzania: Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children, 2017.

92 Laboratory testing for the diagnosis of HIV infection: updated recommendations. Government of the United States of America: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Association of Public Health Laboratories, 2014.

93 National Infection HIV screening strategy. Government of Tunisia Ministry of Health, 2014.

94 HIV/AIDS Tani Tedavi Rehberi Government of Turkey, Türkiye Halk Sağlığı Kurumu, 2013.

95 Consolidated Guidelines for Prevention and treatment of HIV in Uganda. The government of Uganda Ministry of Health, 2016.

96 Infección Por Virus De La Inmunodeficiencia Humana (VIH-Sida) – Guías para Diagnóstico, Tratamiento antiretroviral Y Monitorización Adultos Y Embarazadas. Government of Uruguay, Ministerio de Salud Pública, 2006.

97 Operational Guideline for VCCT Centers in Vanuatu: 2012-2016. Government of Vanuatu: Ministry of Health, 2016.

98 National Institute for Hygiene and Epidemiology-NIHE. Guideline (No 22/VSOTTU-HIV) for Prevention and Treatment of HIV Infection. Government of the Republic of Vietnam: National Institute for hygiene and Epidemiology-NIHE, 2015.

99 Guidelines for Antiretroviral Therapy for the Prevention and Treatment of HIV in Zimbabwe. Government of Zimbabwe: Ministry of Health and Child Care, 2016.

100 Document de Politique,Normes et Procedures des Services de Depistage du VIH en Côte D’Ivoire. Le gouvernement de Cote D’Ivoire: Ministère en charge de la Santé et de l’Hygiène Publique, 2016.

101 Manuel de Formation en Counseling VIH/SIDA/IST. Republic Du Cameroun: Ministèere de la Sante Publique, 2011.

102 Integrated Guidelines for Prevention, Testing, Care and Treatment of HIV and AIDS in Liberia. Republic of Liberia, Ministry of Liberia, 2015.

103 Conseil et Depistage du VIH a Madagascar Rnomes et Procedures. Republic of Madagascar: Le Ministre de la Santé Publique, 2011.

104 Guidelines for the Establishment of Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centers in the Maldives. Republic of Maldives: Ministry of Health and Family, 2009.

105 Policies and Guidelines. In the conduct of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) counselling and testing in community and Health and facility settings. Republic of Philippines, Department of Health, 2010.

106 Normas de Tratamiento Antiretroviral. República de Angola: Ministerio da Saúde, 2015.

107 Tratamento Antiretrovirais e Infeccões Oportunistas do Adulto, Adolescente. Gravida E Criação República de Moçambique: Ministério da Saúde, 2016.

108 Guide de prise en charge de l’infection VIH Aux Comores. Union des Comores: vice Présidence en charge Du Ministère de la Santé, de la Solidarité, 2007.

109 Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS 2016–2021 strategy: on the fast-track to end AIDS. UNAIDS Geneva, 2015.

110 Tan DHS, Hull MW, Yoon D, et al. Canadian guideline on HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis and nonoccupational postexposure prophylaxis. CMAJ 2017;189:E1448.

111 Belgian PrEP Guidelines. Dolce La Hulpe, Belgium, 2017.

112 Guidelines for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) For HIV Prevention in Barbados. Government of Barbados: Ministry of Health, 2017.

113 Protocolo Clínico e Diretrizes Terapêuticas para. Profilaxia Pré-exposição (PreP) de Risco Infeccão pelo HIV. Government of Brazil: Ministério da Saúde, 2017.

114 Eritrea: Communicable Disease Control Division, Ministry of Health, 2016.

115 pré-exposition Lprophylaxie (PrEP) au VIH par TRUVADA®. Government of France: Haute Autorité de Santé, 2017.

116 Linee Guida italiane sull’utilizzo dei farmaci antiretrovirali E sulla gestione diagnostico-clinica delle persone con infezione da HIV-1. Government of Italy, Ministero della Salute, 2016.

117 Recommendations of the Swiss Federal Commission for Sexual Health (FCSH) on pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention. Government of Switzerland, Federal Office of Public Health, 2016.

118 HIV Pre-expositie prophylaxe (Prep) richtlijn Nederland. Government of the Netherlands, 2016.

119 Guidelines for Expanding Combination Prevention and Treatment Options: Oral Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Test and Treat (T&T). Government of the Republic of South Africa, National Department of Health, 2016.

120 Preexposure Prophylaxis For The Prevention Of HIV Infection in the United States of America: National Institute for Health and Medical Research. Government of the United States of America: Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, US Public Health Service, 2018.

121 European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS) Guidelines. Version 9.0. EACS, 2017.

122 Koseck CS, Shanks L, Beeleart G, et al. Australasian Society for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health medicine HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis: clinical guidelines. J Virus Erad 2017;3:168–84.

123 World Health Organization. Who encourages countries to adapt HIV testing strategies in response to changing epidemic. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO, 2016.

124 World Health Organization. Consolidated Guidelines on HIV testing services for a changing epidemic. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO, 2019.

125 Kosack CS, Shanks L, Beeleart G, et al. Designing HIV testing algorithms based on 2015 who guidelines using data from six sites in sub-Saharan Africa. J Clin Microbiol 2017;55:3006–15.

126 World Health Organization. Who recommends countries move away from the use of Western blotting and line immunassays in HIV testing strategies and algorithms. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO, 2019.

127 Ghanotakis E, Miller L, Spensley A. Country adaptation of the 2010 World Health organization recommendations for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Bull World Health Organ 2012;90:301–31.

128 Baggaley R, Curran K, Johnson C, et al. Test for triage: a new approach to community-based HIV testing and counselling. AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses 2014;30:A111.

129 Johnson CC, Kennedy C, Fonner V, et al. Examining the effects of HIV self-testing compared to standard HIV testing services: a systematic review and meta-analysis. J Int AIDS Soc 2017;20:21594.

130 UNAIDS. AIDSinfo, 2018. Available: http://aidsinfo.unaids.org/ [Accessed 7 Jan 2019].