

MODULE 1 EXERCISE

INTRODUCTION TO DIFFERENTIATED TESTING SERVICES

OBJECTIVE

This exercise will help health workers understand and apply the principles of differentiated HIV testing services (dHTS), focusing on targeted testing approaches, client-centered strategies, and service delivery models to optimize HIV case identification.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By completing this exercise, participants will:

- Understand the principles of differentiated HIV testing services (dHTS).
- Identify key populations and priority groups for targeted testing.
- Compare different HIV testing strategies and service delivery models.
- Develop tailored testing approaches based on epidemiological and programmatic data.
- Understand how dHTS improves efficiency and case detection.

TAKEAWAY MESSAGE

Differentiated HIV testing services (dHTS) ensure client-centered, efficient, and targeted approaches to maximize HIV case identification and linkage to care. Integrating evidence-based testing models optimizes resource allocation and improves health system efficiency.

SCENARIO

You are a health worker implementing differentiated HIV testing services in a healthcare facility. Your role includes designing targeted testing approaches, ensuring integration with existing health services, and optimizing case detection strategies.

TASKS

1. UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENTIATED HIV TESTING MODELS

Instructions:

- › Discuss the following as a group:
 - What are differentiated HIV testing services (dHTS)?
 - How does dHTS differ from standard HIV testing models?
 - What are the benefits of a differentiated approach?

Focus Areas:

- Discuss the role of facility-based and self-testing models.
- Identify barriers to HIV testing and how dHTS overcomes them.
- Highlight how task shifting and integration enhance service delivery.

2. TARGETED TESTING FOR HIGHER CASE IDENTIFICATION

Instructions:

- › In groups, discuss:
 - Which populations should be prioritized for targeted testing?
 - What testing approaches best reach these populations?
 - How can dHTS improve HIV case detection and linkage to care?

Focus Areas:

- Discuss partner testing, social network testing, and provider-assisted referral.
- Explore facility-based approaches.
- Address stigma and confidentiality concerns.

3. INTEGRATING dHTS INTO EXISTING HEALTH SERVICES

Instructions:

- › Using the Differentiated HIV Testing Planning Tool develop a plan to integrate dHTS into routine health services.
- › Identify key service entry points such as:
 - Antenatal Care (ANC)
 - Tuberculosis (TB) services
 - Sexually transmitted infections (STI) clinics
 - Harm reduction programs for key populations

Focus Areas:

- Use the Differentiated HIV Testing Planning Tool (Mobilizing, Testing, linkage)
- Identify integration challenges and possible solutions.
- Develop strategies to ensure linkage to prevention services
- Develop strategies to ensure linkage to treatment services.

4. ADAPTING TESTING STRATEGIES BASED ON EPIDEMIOLOGY

Instructions:

- › Review sample HIV epidemiological data from a given setting.
- › Identify which testing models would be most effective in that context.
- › Discuss how to adjust strategies based on programmatic data.

Focus Areas:

- Use data-driven approaches to guide HIV testing.
- Balance high-yield testing approaches with resource efficiency.
- Discuss how to evaluate and refine testing models based on performance.

FINAL REFLECTION

Instructions:

- › Individually reflect on:
 - How can you apply dHTS principles in your setting?
 - What are the key challenges and potential solutions for dHTS implementation?
- › Share reflections in a group discussion.

Discussion Points:

- How can differentiated HIV testing improve case detection?
- What are the best strategies for ensuring linkage to confirmatory testing and treatment?