Addressing Treatment Interruption among people living with HIV using a systematic monitoring tool piloted in Bacoor City, Philippines

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I. Background:

Philippines HIV Treatment Cascade, September 2023

- Estimated: 189,000
- Diagnosed PLHIV: 115,568
- Initiated to ART: 95,395
- Alive on ARV: 74,256
- VL Tested: 33,727
- VL Suppressed: 29,329
I. Background:

Philippines HIV Treatment Cascade, September 2023

- Estimated PLHIV: 189000
- Diagnosed PLHIV: 115568
- Initiated to ART: 95395
- Alive on ARV: 74256
- VL Tested: 33727
- VL Suppressed: 29329

LTFU: 22%
II. Description/Methods:

Overview of the Client Monitoring Tool (CMT)

- Quality Improvement monitoring
  - Interruption In Treatment (IIT) as an issue across Greater Metro Manila facilities

- EpiC created a monitoring tool to address IIT
  - Also included viral load testing monitoring

- Deep dive meetings with the CHDs and facilities
  - Highlight, discuss and address the current situation of interruption in treatment and retention to care of their clients.

- Training on CMT
  - Introduced tool in selected pilot implementation sites
  - Included other areas that may address IIT: (Mental Health screening, IPV screening, and the importance of SDART and RAI)
II. Description/Methods:

CMT Objectives

- To prompt and assist the facility staff in patient tracking and monitoring of clients' refills and VL testing
- To lessen the burden of scheduling and address other gaps that contribute to interruptions in treatment
- To help staff in prioritizing clients for adherence counseling and case management

Divided into 6 sections

- Client Information
- ART Enrollment details
- ARV Status
- IIT Risk Assessment
- Viral Load Monitoring
- Co-infections
### Key Features of Client Monitoring Tool

#### ARV Status and Prevention of IIT

ARV Refill Date is auto-computed and color-coded. Please see the legend below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Refill Date Indicator</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARV Refill Date</td>
<td>Date today is within 30 days before the ARV refill date</td>
<td>Prepare to follow up client, can start reminding the client</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARV Refill Date</td>
<td>Date today is within 14 days before the ARV refill date</td>
<td>Must remind and follow-up client to come back for refills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARV Refill Date</td>
<td>Date today is within 30 days after the ARV refill date (nearing LTFU)</td>
<td>Intensified efforts to remind and follow-up client to come back for refills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARV Refill Date</td>
<td>Date today is more than 30 days after ARV refill date (patient is already LTFU)</td>
<td>Intensified efforts to remind and follow-up client to come back for refills</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Viral Load Testing Monitoring

Viral load Testing Date is auto-computed and color-coded. Please see the legend below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color</th>
<th>VL Schedule Indicator</th>
<th>For VL Naive: VL at 3-6 months after ART initiation</th>
<th>For Previously Tested: VL at 12 months after ART initiation/previous test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial/Next VL Schedule</td>
<td>Client is eligible for VL testing</td>
<td>date today is <strong>within 3rd to 5th month</strong> after ART initiation</td>
<td>date today is <strong>within 0 to 2 months</strong> after anniversary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial/Next VL Schedule</td>
<td>Client is eligible for VL testing with warning</td>
<td>date today is <strong>within 5th to 6th month</strong> after ART initiation</td>
<td>date today is within <strong>2 to 3 months</strong> after anniversary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial/Next VL Schedule</td>
<td>Client is due and late for VL testing</td>
<td>date today is past <strong>6th months</strong> from ART initiation</td>
<td>date today is past <strong>3 months</strong> from anniversary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## II. Description/Methods:

![Sample](sample.png)
III. Lessons Learned:

Using CMT optimized case management

Enabled providers to schedule clients conveniently to reduce missed appointments, prioritize clients by risk

Allowed for differentiated service delivery methods like multi-month dispensing and telemedicine for lower-risk clients.

As a result, BSHC reduced monthly client interruption.
Standardized monitoring tools can efficiently track clients’ adherence and address risk factors that contribute to their treatment interruption. With proper training, the tool can facilitate efficient case management to reduce treatment interruption and help clients achieve U=U status.
IV. Acknowledgement:

EpiC-HIV Philippines – FHI 360 Team

Bacoor Social Hygiene Clinic