

5TOPIC: Improving the reported proportion of people with TB (PWTB) with documented HIV status and proportion of HIV-coinfected on ART in Ehlanzeni District, Mpumalanga.

Authors: Myakayaka N¹, Dlamini-Miti N^{1,2}, Murinda T¹, Maunatlala S¹, Themba T³, Okonji E², Connell², Onaga C^{1,2} Chasela C²

Background:

Uncontrolled HIV is a predictor of TB mortality. The HIV status of all People with TB (PWTB) should be established early, and ART initiated/optimized as soon as the HIV-coinfected are eligible. 92% (vs 100% target) of PWTB in Ehlanzeni, were reported to have a documented HIV status (TB_stat), whilst the proportion of HIV co-infected on ART (TB_ART) was 89%, for PEPFAR FY2021. We describe the lessons learnt in improving these indicators.

Methods:

Facility performance, calculated from Tier.net, was reviewed monthly. File audits of registered PWTB without an HIV and/ or ART status on Tier.net were conducted by Roving teams. Clinicians were mentored on HIV testing (HTS), initiation/ continuation assessment of ART, and proper documentation of HIV/ART status. Data teams were trained on the proper capturing of HIV/ ART status, particularly for those 'on ART at another facility', as well as reviewing the 'waiting on ART' reports on Tier.net and liaising with clinicians to avoid missing PWTB due for ART. Teams were advised to review the HIV/ART status of all PWTB within one-two weeks of registration. Patients with unknown HIV status, and those last tested HIV-negative prior the reporting quarter, were recalled for HTS before the end of the quarter.

Result:

The TB-stat performance improved to 94%, 98%, 99%, 98%, 97% for October 2021 to September 2022, and October- December 2022, respectively, and TB_ART to 91% for FY2022. 67% of PWTB were HIV-infected. Of 269 files audited, 40%, 35%, 13%, 12%, PWTB were known HIV-positive and 'on ART at another facility, had an uncaptured HIV-positive/ current HIV-negative status, had an old HIV-negative status, had unknown HIV status, respectively.

Conclusion:

Most (75%), of missing HIV statuses arise from problems with data capturing. Regular data quality audits are crucial in improving and maintaining high TB-stat/ART performance.

