



CHOICE Collaboration for HIV Prevention Options to Control the Epidemic

Assessment of Facility Readiness for PrEP Provision in Antenatal and Postnatal Care Services



What is CHOICE?

The Collaboration for HIV Prevention Options to Control the Epidemic (CHOICE) is a 24-month collaboration funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), under the Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC and Reaching Impact, Saturation and Epidemic Control (RISE) projects. The goal of CHOICE is to address technical gaps and support national scale-up of antiretroviral (ARV)-based HIV prevention products (collectively referred to as PrEP) in PEPFAR countries through catalytic evidence generation, translation, and research utilization. Under this umbrella, CHOICE has developed a set of oral Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) clinical practice guidelines, provider training materials, surveillance recommendations, and other materials that may be helpful for expanding or enhancing PrEP service delivery for pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBFW).

Conducting a Health Facility Assessment for PrEP Services in Antenatal and Postnatal Care

Evidence has shown that PBFW are at higher risk of acquiring HIV infection, compared to non-pregnant women. The World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended that oral PrEP containing tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (TDF) be offered as an additional prevention choice for pregnant women at substantial risk of HIV infection as part of combination prevention approaches. Increasing access to PrEP services within facility-based antenatal care (ANC) and postnatal care (PNC) is one important strategy in a comprehensive program to operationalize this recommendation and decrease HIV incidence in women and infants. This Facility Assessment Tool is part of a package of training and implementation resources intended to support expansion of PrEP to PBFW through maternal and newborn health (MNH) service delivery platforms.

Collecting baseline information on health facility readiness is one integral part of preparing for new PrEP service delivery for PBFW in ANC, PNC, or other MNH service delivery settings. Once a decision has been made to pursue the expansion of PrEP services within MNH service delivery settings, the assessment team should generate a list of potential health facilities with MNH services that may be invited or designated to provide PrEP services for PBFW. The sample assessment outlined here focuses on evaluation of health facility infrastructure and space available for the care of PBFW coming to the facility for PrEP services at ANC or PNC, as well as availability of relevant supplies. The framework for this assessment assumes that routine MNH services are already provided in the facility, but that the relevant supplies and infrastructure needs for offering PrEP in the MNH unit may not be available, or may only be available in referral settings. In addition to the above assessments, health system stakeholders should discuss and plan for a range of important factors, including a supportive health policy environment, a well-trained and well-supported MNH workforce, and a communications strategy informed by insights from community representatives, among other considerations (see Table 1). A more

comprehensive approach to assessing laboratory capacity is available from WHO.¹ The suggested facility assessment domains and questions below include multiple items drawn from the [OPTIONS Plan 4 PrEP Toolkit: Facility Readiness Assessment](#).

Table 1. Additional Key Considerations

- Demographic trends in HIV incidence
- Sociocultural and gender-related barriers to ARV use by HIV-uninfected PBFW
- Norms and power dynamics in decision-making during ANC and PNC, particularly around medication use
- Ongoing or planned social and behavior change communication campaigns related to MNH and/or prevention of perinatal transmission of HIV infection
- Trends in ANC and PNC census at facilities
- Community-based ANC and PNC service delivery
- MNH and family planning quality of care initiatives that can be linked to PrEP expansion efforts
- Structural barriers to addressing facility-based services
- Status of national PrEP guidelines and policies, inclusion of PBFW
- Cost of ANC, PNC, PrEP drug, and laboratory tests for patients
- Competent personnel for ANC, PNC, family planning, commodities management, monitoring and evaluation, intimate partner violence counseling, and laboratory services

¹ WHO. Laboratory Assessment Tool. 2012. https://media.tghn.org/articles/WHO_Laboratory_Assessment_Tool_1.pdf

1.0 Health Facility Identification

1.1	Date of Visit	
1.2	Facility Name	
1.3	Facility Number	
1.4	State/District	
1.5	City/Town/Village	
1.6	Health Facility Type	National referral hospital Provincial/district hospital Health center/clinic Others (specify)
1.7	Health Facility Ownership	Government/public Private-for-profit Faith-based Others (Specify)
1.8	Health Facility Location ²	Urban (population > xxx) Peri-urban (population between xxx – xxx) Rural (population < xxx)

² Programs may consider specifying the population values of each category according to national or subnational definitions. (e.g., Rural [Population <10,000]; Urban [population > 50,000]; Peri-urban [population between 10,000 – 50,000]).

2.0 Infrastructure and Equipment

	Items	Yes	No	Comments
2.1	Does the health facility have space for ANC?			
2.2	Does the health facility have space for PNC?			
2.3	Does the health facility have space for private counseling for PrEP?			
2.4	Are there toolkits or job aids for service providers on HIV prevention and oral PrEP?			
2.5	Are the following equipment functional and available at the health facility?			
2.5.1	Manual blood pressure cuff and stethoscope OR automated blood pressure cuff			
2.5.2	Pregnancy wheel (for ANC settings)			
2.5.3	Fetoscope or fetal heart doppler (for ANC settings)			
2.5.4	Measuring tape for fundal height (for ANC settings)			
2.5.5	Scale for measuring maternal weight			
2.5.6	Examination table or mattress			
2.5.7	Telephone line for contacting clients and/or other health workers			
2.5.8	Handwashing station easily accessible to health care providers			
2.5.9	Medical masks for health care providers			
2.5.10	Disinfection supplies to use on equipment between clients			

2.6	Is the facility linked to programs or efforts that support adherence or adverse events monitoring?			
2.7	Are there any awareness building efforts on HIV prevention and/or specifically on oral PrEP for the population that visits the facility?			

3.0 Pharmacy and Storage

	Items	Yes	No	Comments
3.1	Are the following drugs/vaccines available in the pharmacy/health facility?			
3.1.1	Emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate tablets (or other locally approved PrEP drugs)			
3.1.2	Iron and folic acid supplements			
3.1.3	Sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP)			
3.1.4	Deworming tablets (albendazole, mebendazole)			
3.1.5	Sexually transmitted infection treatment drugs (benzathine penicillin G, azithromycin, ceftriaxone, metronidazole)			
3.1.6	Tetanus toxoid vaccine (for ANC settings)			
3.1.7	A range of family planning methods for postpartum women			For example: male/female condoms, intrauterine contraceptive devices, sterilization, progestin-only pills, injectables (e.g., DMPA, NET-EN), implants (Jadelle, Implanon), combined oral contraceptives

3.2	Does the pharmacy/MNH space have safe and dry space for storage of drugs?			
3.3	Does the facility's stock room have temperature control?			
3.4	Does the facility have extra stocks of oral PrEP drugs on site to prevent shortages?			
3.5	Does the facility have standard operating procedures (SOPs) or logistics management and information systems (LMIS) in place to support ordering and reporting (i.e., stock management) on ARVs?			

4.0 Laboratory

	Items	Yes	No	Comments
4.1	Are the following tests available in the laboratory?			
4.1.1	HIV test			
4.1.2	Syphilis (treponemal)			
4.1.3	Syphilis (non-treponemal)			
4.1.4	Urine pregnancy			
4.1.5	Rapid diagnostic tests for malaria			
4.1.6	Blood smear for malaria			
4.1.7	Serum creatinine			
4.1.8	Liver function (e.g., AST, ALT)			
4.1.9	<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>			

4.1.10	<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>			
4.1.11	Blood glucose			
4.2	Is there a referral system or connection to other laboratories for tests that are not available on site?			

5.0 Data, Registration, and Monitoring and Evaluation

	Items	Yes	No	Comments
5.1	Does the health facility have the following registers and data points?			
5.1.1	Register for ANC			
5.1.2	Register for PNC			
5.1.3	PrEP included in ANC registers			
5.1.4	PrEP included in PNC registers			
5.1.5	PrEP included in ANC reporting form			
5.1.6	PrEP included in PNC reporting form			
5.1.7	PrEP included in ANC summary form			
5.1.8	PrEP included in PNC summary form			
5.2	Is the facility reporting into a national reporting structure on oral PrEP?			
5.3	Does the facility have a unique client identification system?			
5.4	Does the facility have an electronic patient monitoring system?			

6.0 Communications

	Items	Yes	No	Comments
6.1	Are there any awareness building efforts on HIV prevention and/or specifically on oral PrEP for the population that visits the facility? If yes, please specify.			
6.2	Are information, education, and communication (IEC) materials customized for PBFW available on HIV prevention and oral PrEP?			
6.3	Does the facility have a comprehensive strategy or plan to guide communications about oral PrEP for PBFW?			
6.4	Has the facility developed a plan for outreach to potential PBFW oral PrEP users in the community?			
6.5	Has the community been sensitized on the integration of oral PrEP for PBFW within existing services?			
6.6	Have HIV prevention or PrEP champions been identified and engaged at the facility to reach PBFW with PrEP information?			

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