

CLM for Labs

What was monitored, and why

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It should never be testing by itself.....

Information, counselling, referrals, explaining/delivering results and taking recommended actions, as indicated, are part of testing – not just taking a sample.

People need to know why a test is being done, what the result means, and the actions that need to be taken based on their test result.

It does not matter how many tests a healthcare facility performs if people do not ever get or understand their results - and when no actions are taken when called for by a test result



What was monitored, and why?

HIV testing, including self-testing

Enables PrEP initiation, and linkage to life-saving antiretroviral treatment (ART) and other HIV services

Early infant diagnostics (EID)

Infants carry maternal antibodies until they are 18 months old, so HIV testing needs to look for the virus. Mortality among undiagnosed, untreated infants living with HIV is high: 30% will die within a year, and 50% will die within two years.

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What was monitored and why?

CD4 cell count

The preferred method to identify advanced HIV disease among people living with HIV (who require a special package of care, since they are vulnerable to serious illness and death; it is especially important in the context of funding cuts that have reduced access to HIV services, since people may present late for testing or may experience disrupted treatment access or it may become necessary to prioritize treatment access).

Viral load

Viral load testing identifies HIV treatment failure. An unsuppressed viral load (>1,000 copies/mL) puts PLHIV at increased risk of illness and death, and/or passing on the virus. PLHIV with treatment failure need enhanced adherence counselling, continued monitoring, and, if necessary, to switch ARVs.

WHO. Overview of WHO recommendations on HIV and sexually transmitted infection testing, prevention, treatment, care and service delivery. . 2025.

<https://iris.who.int/server/api/core/bitstreams/16073301-792e-4153-9ce9-ad7a56ea37a7/content>



What was monitored and why?

Tuberculosis (TB) screening

TB is the most common illness among PLHIV; they are up to 22 times more likely to fall ill from TB vs. HIV-negative people.

Although TB is preventable and curable, 150,000 PLHIV died from TB in 2024. Diagnosing and treating TB in PLHIV, especially early - before treatment costs become catastrophic - saves lives and prevents onward transmission.

WHO recommends a 4-symptom TB screening (W4SS; cough, fever, night sweats, and/or weight loss) for all PLHIV at each visit to a healthcare facility and for all hospital inpatients

WHO and National Guidelines

	HIV testing, including HST	EID	CD4	Viral Load	TB: W4SS
WHO: Consolidated Guidelines on HIV Prevention, Testing, Treatment, Service Delivery and Monitoring, 2021	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Burkina Faso: Normes et Protocoles de Prise en Charge Medicale des Personnes Vivant Avec Le VIH Au Burkina Faso, 2021	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
DRC: Guide de Prise en Charge de <i>L'infection à VIH en RDC</i> , 2025	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
SIERRA LEONE: Consolidated Guidelines on HIV Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment, and Care in Sierra Leone, 2020	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Monitoring Questions

Is HIV testing available, and if so, where?

Are people who get a positive HIV test result connected to care?

Are PLHIV getting CD4 cell counts, and if so, when?

Do they receive information about the purpose of a CD4 cell count, and what the results mean?

When do they get results?

Are people with a CD4 cell count of <200 cells/mm³ getting the special package of care for AHD?

Are PLHIV getting viral load testing at 6 and 12 months after starting ART, and then annually?

Do they receive information about the purpose of viral load, and what the results mean?

When do they get their results?

Are people with a detectable viral load provided with re-testing, enhanced adherence support, and, if indicated, different HIV treatment?

Are PLHIV getting viral load testing at 6 and 12 months after starting ART, and then every year thereafter?

Are PLHIV getting screened for TB at every visit to a healthcare facility?

Are people who screen positive getting further testing for TB/ preventive treatment/TB treatment?

