



HEALTH RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

APPENDIX 2: PROVINCIAL PRIORITY QUESTIONS

HAST

Adherence

1. Fixed dose combination (FDC) medication is excellent for adherence, but what will happen if patients run short? Danger of 3 days not being taken as compared to one?
2. Are patients educated about the FDC- their perception and attitudes due to lack of knowledge can contribute to them not taking medicines- (3 drugs is better than 1)
3. Are TB sufferers called for Dr's appointments?
4. How can we ensure that all sufferers take their treatments?
5. What are the effects of non-compliance to treatment in MDR patients in KZN hospitals?
6. Why do MDR patients default treatment?
7. Strategies to improve adherence to ART in order to improve survival and reduce development of drug resistance and need for third line treatment.
8. How do mothers/ caregivers cope with giving small children TB meds? When are pediatric TB drugs going to be produced?
9. Why do the TB patients not comply with TB treatment?

Burden of Disease

1. What co-morbidities and disability come with having HIV?
2. We know that PMTCT is working very well and a lot of children escape HIV infection. Do we know how many children/ teenagers were born with HIV? How do they survive? How are health service assisting/ caring for them especially if they fall pregnant?

Clinical Management

1. Identification of diagnostics and biomarkers of TB.
2. How could treatment for TB be made shorter?
3. Biomarkers for TB. What tools/ biometrics could be used to follow response to TB treatment or predict outcome of treatment? (example what would the equivalent of a CD4 count be in TB)
4. TB in children. How could children with TB be diagnosed better? (currently children are treated as mini adults)

Epidemiology

1. Rising number of children under 5 infected, why the increase and what can be done?
2. Why are young women (15-24) in *KZN* at higher risk of HIV infection than men of the same age and how can we prevent this?
3. High TB area-different with low HIV prevalence areas

4. What are the key populations for HIV prevention in KZN? (PWD, MSM, youth, migration, sex worker)?
5. Does INH prophylaxis have a negative impact by promoting the spread of resistant TB?

Evaluation/Impact

1. What has been the impact on health systems strengthening through the use of point-of-care testing with respect to time to treatment, adherence and retention in care for HIV and / or TB?
2. Why does TB reoccur in spite of rigorous DOTS by DOH?
3. Is symptomatic screening for sexually transmitted infections enough? Would diagnostic testing/ screening facilitate HIV prevention?
4. How will combination prevention methods impact on reduction of HIV?
5. TB treatment coverage/cure
6. PMTCT-coverage
7. What is the impact of INH prophylaxis in HIV + patients on the prevalence of drug resistant TB?
8. Is establishment of tracing teams in poor socio economic areas successful?
9. KZN has thousands of Community Care Givers, each looking after 4 houses. How can we still have low case finding and treatment defaulters?
10. What is the impact of community based rehabilitation on disability status of people with HIV who experience disability?
11. Are teenagers "AIDS fatigued" about the knowledge around HIV and AIDS they receive?
12. Preventing MDR TB- more effective regimen for current TB cure rate
13. Treating TB in HIV infected-improving TB cure. Shorter more effective regimen fewer doses, new drugs that are similar to co-administration with ART
14. What would be the impact on health care systems of starting ARV at time of diagnosis, independent of CD4 count?
15. What is the impact of the medical male circumcision on the HIV incidence?

Health Economics/Finance

1. Lab costs. Would it be cheaper and more effective to use private sector?

Health Policy and Guidelines

2. Why are TB hospitals not re-opened? (SANTA)
3. Are the guidelines for STDs still applicable in the KZN situation?
4. Is ethics implemented in HAST research?

Health promotion

1. Strategies to prevent to acquisition of HIV infection by PMTCT or development of an effective HIV vaccine.
2. How do we make the lives of the elderly rural women easier to cope with the burden of raising AIDS orphans? Like right vision glasses, cheaper nutritional sources like moringa plants and screening cervical cancer.
3. Why are condoms especially FCs not used as they should? Is it access or marketing?
4. How can we involve/ engage men in HIV prevention strategies?
5. Is health education done properly at facility level regarding TB?
6. How can the spread of TB be stopped?

7. What factors facilitate uptake of HIV prevention interventions and what are the barriers?

Health Systems

1. How can rehabilitation be feasibly integrated with HIV management?
2. How can we measure TB/HIV integration with public health facilities?
3. What is the most effective model for TB/ HIV integration in PHC in KZN and how does this contribute to improvements in morbidity and mortality reduction?
4. In-hospital diagnosis of TB and retention in care in PHC systems – is this feasible?

HR/Management

1. HCW perception of MDR TB.
2. Is DOTS supervision adequate?
3. What is the KAP of health care workers in regards to the interrelationship of HIV and disability?
4. What is professional nurses' (not working in general ward/ not HIV AIDS units) knowledge and attitudes towards HIV?

Infectious/Communicable Diseases

1. Characterizing the human immune response to TB and HIV
2. Infectious/Communicable Disease
3. Strategies to prevent acquisition of childhood TB related to development of an effective vaccine, implementation of chemoprophylaxis a means to break transmission.
4. We need to focus on the basic science of TB and HIV biology and pathology, as well as the host response to these infections. There have been no new TB drugs and diagnostic tools until very recently.

Information systems/Informatics

1. Quality of information/ data. What if data capturers don't enter correct information?
2. How does the current health information management's system capture disability status of patients?
3. Is there a better way of R +R? Every month, every quarter, every year R+R is a problem. Computers blamed/ data capturers blamed.
4. The caseload of TB according to ETR.Net has dropped, could this be a programme error or are we seeing less TB cases?
5. Are staffs reporting side effects and any other complications that are not cited in pharmacovigilance reporting?

Inter-Sectoral Collaboration, Traditional

1. To what extent has the medical field responded to peoples' religious beliefs in their addressing of these non-communicable diseases? A person's belief system has a strong influence on their wellbeing and their response to issues of wellness.
2. KZN has one of the highest numbers of African instituted churches and other new religious movements whose belief systems on issues of health can sometimes be contrary to the western medic
3. What are some of the religious health assets that can be used to address issues of health in the communities?
Collaboration between religion and health.

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD)

1. How can you mainstream disability into health/HIV research?

Occupational health and safety

1. PEP-occupational. Perception and outcome. Adherence.

Quality of Care

1. How do we make our clinicians more disability friendly and sensitive?

Service Access & Utilisation

1. Are our clinics youth friendly to encourage the use of the clinics? Example: opening and closing times, confidentiality issues, private counselling and consulting areas.
2. How can you improve access to HIV services for PWD in resource poor settings?

Service Delivery

1. Strategies to ensure effective cure rate of TB infected children through development of effective drug delivery, pharmacodynamics models to shortening duration of treatment.
2. Are storage areas in hospitals sufficient to store drugs for their patients-i.e. are the storage areas space developed according to the number of patients' visits (possible reason for stock-out?)
3. Why do we have ARV shortages? Is this poor planning (stock out reason for this?)

Sexual and Reproductive Health

What counselling is given by providers to HIV discordant couples who wish to have a child?

How do we address the dual risk of HIV acquisition and unintended pregnancies simultaneously?

What are successful measures to prevent HIV transmission in a discordant couple trying to conceive in a poorly resourced setting?

What strategies do we have as health care workers to reduce spread of STIs especially HIV among lesbian community?

Are healthcare services receptive to women sleeping with women when presenting with STIs?

Why do women both in regular or casual relations struggle with condom use?

Understanding sexual health and factors promoting HIV acquisition in young women?

Do we know enough about sexual practices to prevent spread of HIV? (What is happening behind closed doors?)

Socio-Behavioural and Cultural Factors

1. Why do males present themselves late for TB-management?
2. Now that ART is available and stigma of being HIV positive is reduced, why are people still not coming forward for HIV testing-especially men?
3. What is the role of men/ partners to disease prevention, adherence?
4. What are the social factors that must be addressed among women to reduce their risk of disease? (Gender imbalance, gender roles, partnerships and marriage and poverty).
5. Which cultural practices are good for health? Which cultural practices are bad for health?
6. The impact of a violence dominated country on the increase of HAST

Teen Pregnancy

1. How do we reduce teenage pregnancy?

2. How do we address high rates of unintended pregnancies especially teenage pregnancies?
3. Why is teenage pregnancy not going down in the province?

Traditional Medicine

1. What exactly do traditional healers do to treat TB? Traditional medicine and practices impact on health and TB.
2. Does use of *isihlambelo* (traditional medicine) by pregnant women increase risk of MTCT of HIV for HIV positive clients?

Non-communicable diseases

Burden of disease

1. Burden of surgical disease in KZN
2. Is our health service ready for the projected increase in longevity? Is there adequate training in geriatrics and gerontology?
3. Comorbidity of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases with mental health
4. What are the health needs in terms of paediatric birth defects throughout KZN?

Clinical Management

1. Evaluate technical efficiency of services
2. Digital radiography-reliable use of radiologists.
3. What possible interventions should we prioritize to decrease perioperative mortality?
4. How do we improve outcomes in trauma patients presenting to the KZN health services?
5. Perioperative outcomes, what interventions will reduce maternal mortality during caesarean section?
6. How do we reduce 30 day post-operative mortality, infections, and complications in KZN?
7. Perioperative outcomes - both elective and emergency

Community Health

1. Community engagement in healthcare systems
2. Using school health teams for health promotion and disease prevention in children
3. What community level interventions facilitate early identification of NCDs?
4. What is the best community based model to promote healthy lifestyles?
5. What support is provided to individuals and families with genetic disease in KZN?
6. epidemiology
7. What are protective factors to prevent or decrease prevalence of violence/ injuries among children and amongst school learners?
8. Do we have data with regard to the effect of gender, age, ethnicity on disease burden, disability etc.
9. Modelling burden of disease taking into account social determinants of health.
10. What is the scope of genetically influenced disease in KZN?
11. Prevalence of NCD e.g. osteoporosis

12. How can we monitor injury morbidity and the cost to the health systems?
13. How do we monitor birth defects and genetic disease in KZN?
14. What are the most common causes of burn injury in KZN?
15. What is the best way to monitor burn injury in KZN?

Epidemiology

1. Perioperative outcomes of neonatal surgery. What is the epidemiology? What is the mortality/ long term outcome, resource availability?
2. What determines perioperative mortality? (Surgical mortality accounts for a third of all deaths in South Africa).
3. The HIV prevalence rate in uMzinyathi is among the lowest in the Province but the TB rate (including MDR and XDR TB) is the highest – why is this?

Evaluation/Impact

1. How can congenital abnormality be used as an indicator for improvement of infectious disease control?
2. The role of rehabilitation in preventing morbidity.
3. The DOH provides treatment to NCD-diabetes mellitus and others, yet limb amputation escalates quarterly. What is it that the DOH does not do well or misses that results in the escalation

Geography

1. Urban vs. rural

Health Economics/Finance

1. How to address challenges regarding decreasing the food price for healthy foods and increasing the food prices for unhealthy foods.
2. The economic benefits of improving surgical outcomes.

Health Policy and Guidelines

1. Community specific healthcare policy guideline development
2. Standards compliance and accreditation

Health Promotion

1. Health promotion at community level to prevent NCD.
2. Counselling services for patients to improve knowledge and attitude towards NCDs.
3. Diabetes prevention for at-risk groups e.g. those with mental disorders: focus on family intervention models.
4. Why it seems at times healthy messages don't result in desired behaviour/outcomes?
5. How to implement cost effective interventions to encourage physical activity.
6. Injury pathways
7. What interventions can be implemented to control burn injuries in KZN?

8. Although seatbelts are legal requirements, how to discuss challenges with enforcement as in other countries (e.g. car seats for children).
9. What are the best practices of obesity prevention programmes for diabetes prevention?
10. Screening uptake behaviour: approaches to increasing screening for diabetes, cancer and cardio-vascular disease.

Health Systems

1. Effectiveness of the PHC –reengineering model - the role of CCGs and DCSTs
2. Why are so many congenital heart defects being missed in newborns (i.e. in utero)?
3. Audit of equipment and facilities, e.g. scanners
4. Health systems management (systems status)?
5. The use of incidental surgical admissions to initiate effective public health interventions.
6. Health structure framework - strengthening
7. Integration of services at district level (mental health, rehab, chronic disease) to improve service delivery
8. Identify gaps in health systems that need addressing in order to integrate mental health services
9. Integration of prevention of mental illness, promotion of mental health into health services for other acute/chronic conditions.

HR/Management

1. Optimization of resources utilization (HR and financial)
2. Who are the people performing foetal cardiac ultrasounds scans?
3. Assessing attitude of health care workers.
4. What are the professional development needs for health professionals in genetics in KZN?
5. Clinical practice: education, mentorship and internship.
6. Is there a caring attitude in the labour ward?
7. The building of residences for doctors and nurses in rural areas doesn't seem to be helping staff retention here. Does it have an effect at all and if not, why not?
8. The attraction and retention of junior doctors to UMkhanyakude is high – is this related to the higher number of experienced doctors there who can mentor them?

Information Systems - Informatics

1. Strengthening M&E with feedback mechanisms.
2. Improving information systems to inform needs and priorities for mental health care users and also epidemiological data
3. Registry – how to make it work effectively and efficiently
4. M health: e-health innovations for effective diagnosis, referral and treatment of NCDs in resource-poor settings.
5. Review of existing research reports and what can be learnt.

Mental health

1. Reducing stigma in mental illness (both in communities but also as health professionals)
2. Clinical trials to develop cost-effective pharmaceuticals for mental illness.

Occupational health and safety

1. Patient safety

Quality of care

1. How do we improve the perioperative surgical experience for patients
2. Quality and clinical governance; assurance and quality indicators

Service Access and Utilization

1. What are the barriers/ facilitators to accessible mental health care by parents?

Service Delivery

1. What are the barriers/ facilitators to mental health service delivery by the service providers?
2. What needs to be strengthened in terms of mental health care delivery in view of human resources/policies and finance.

Socio-behavioural and Cultural Factors

1. Does the DOH have appropriate screening tools which are language, culture and education sensitive?
2. What are the best behavioural intervention models for NCD prevention?

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Burden of Disease

1. What is the actual burden of malaria in uMkhanyakude?
2. What are the effects of climatic change on parasitic infections?

Clinical Management

1. Do we have adequate antibiotic stewardship in all our facilities?

Community Health/Community-Based Health Care

1. Community based education and information-availability
2. Does the community have access to health care facilities-information on how to care for children with diarrhoea and pneumonia?

Epidemiology

1. What is the morbidity attributable to childhood diarrhoea?
2. Investigate the aetiology of under 5's mortality- diarrheal diseases, respiratory tract infections, meningitis

Evaluation/Impact

1. Has the Klebsiella infection been totally eradicated in the KZN hospitals?
2. Success rate of ARV under 5 years
3. What is the deworming coverage for pre-school children through the IMCI programme?
4. Is the EDL adequate to respond to the range of infections seen?
5. Are we adequately prepared for outbreaks (identification and control)?
6. Why is maternal health not improved despite numerous interventions by DOH?

Geography

1. Geographical measure of malaria

Health Policy and Guidelines

1. Outbreak response/ preparedness
2. Early warning systems
3. Training vs implementation. Is there a balance?

Health Promotion

1. How can we strengthen the areas of preventative health care in CD?
2. What is the role of the CHW in prevention of CD?

Health Systems

1. Prioritization of communicable diseases in departmental activities
2. Do we have capacity to deal with communicable disease at all levels (including prevention thereof)?
3. How can we ensure integration/ coordination of departmental activities at all levels?
4. How can we best integrate the NHI, preventative health, curative health and allied health care disciplines?

HIV/AIDS

1. What are the effects of communicable disease with HIV?
2. Is HIV/AIDS complicating management of children with SAM?

HR/Management

1. Is there sufficient training for a parasitologist in the province?
2. Research capacity strengthening for parasitologists
3. Training nurses to capture data

Infection Prevention & Control

1. Is there routine, representative antimicrobial resistance surveillance across all hospitals/facilities?

Information Systems/Informatics

1. Is there a system where data is collected for children with communicable diseases?
2. Systems to capture data, will it be computerized only? Will there be a backup system such as a hard copy - books or files?
3. How can we ensure that information is collected at all levels: especially in the community level?
4. How can we ensure that we produce quality data in all our data systems e.g. DHIS, PERSAL and BAS?
5. Are there enough members of staff to capture data by nurses and by database?
6. Database for all the funding opportunities for research in health care (apart from MRC)
7. Has the medical history of children been documented?
8. Should there be an electronic database tracking antimicrobial resistance trends in the province?

Inter-Sectoral Collaboration

1. What is being done to alleviate cholera in rural area with “no –pure water access”?
2. How can we connect experts from multidisciplinary fields to work together on epidemiological projects?

Malaria

1. What is the burden of imported malaria in KZN?

Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

1. Are there mothers in rural settings with sufficient information for managing children with the disease?
2. Why are the under 5 years dying of pneumonia in rural areas of KZN?
3. Reducing mortality and morbidity related to diarrhoea and pneumonia in children under 5 years?

Nutrition

1. What's the role of different levels of care in the management/ prevention of severe acute malnutrition in children under 5 years?
2. What factors contribute to children under 5 years presenting with severe acute malnutrition (SAM)?
3. Is nutrition (MDG 4) available to children with CD?

Pregnancy-Related Health Care

1. What are the effects of HIV on Nutritional status of pregnant women?

TB

1. Why is TB still a problem in KZN despite the effective sputum test methods?

Traditional Medicine

1. Role of indigenous medicines in communicable disease?
2. Anti-diarrhoeal properties of traditional medical plants
3. Diarrhoea causing parasites and their treatment with traditional medicine?