
Abstract E24 Interventions to improve quality of HIV services, patient category: centeredness adherence and pre-ART care

Title: How a simple quality improvement initiative by health facility staff lead to improvement of CD4 testing and ART enrolment for pediatrics: experiences from Mawenzi Regional Hospital, Tanzania

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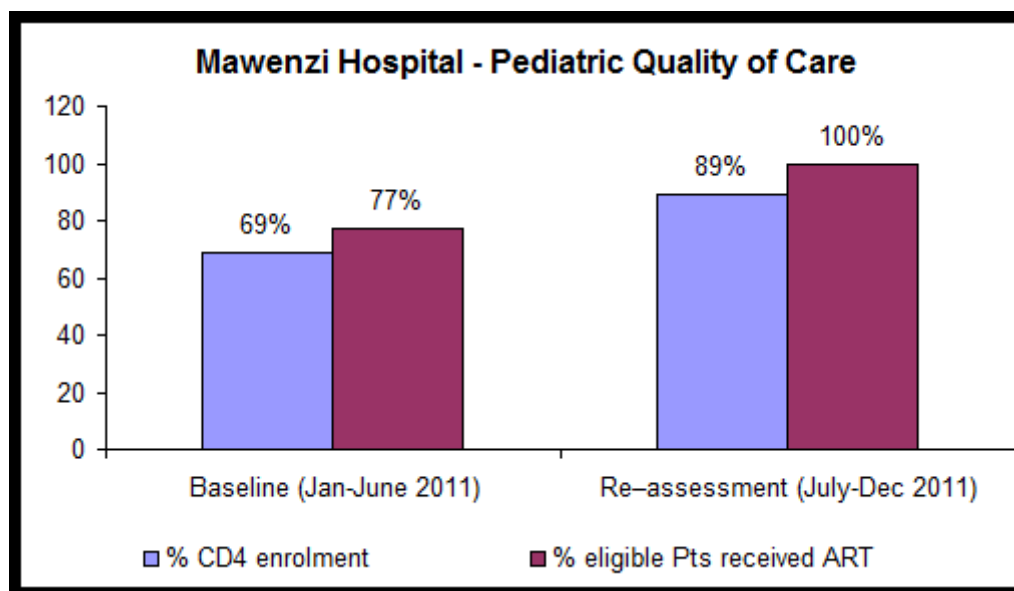
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Text: **Background:** In Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation-Tanzania HIV care programs, a total of 14,036 children under 14 years of age were enrolled in HIV care and treatment by 30th September 2011. To determine the quality of their care and identify areas for improvement, EGPAF-Tanzania evaluated CD4 testing activity and ART initiation in supported sites.

Methods: In Mawenzi Hospital, one of 165 care and treatment sites supported by EGPAF Tanzania, 966 children under 14 years of age were enrolled in HIV care over a period of four years (September 2007-September 2011). A baseline assessment of pediatric quality of care was conducted on a sample of 70 randomly selected pediatric client files in the HIV care and treatment clinic between January and June 2011. An Excel tool, developed by EGPAF's Quality Improvement department, was used. Data were analyzed, comparing the number of children with a CD4 test at enrolment with the number of children eligible. The baseline assessment found that 69% of eligible children had CD4 tests at enrollment. At this facility, only doctors were allowed to order CD4 tests. After this baseline assessment, in June 2011, staff decided that nurses would now order the test prior to the clients seeing the physician, enabling clients to have CD4 tests before clinical review. A 6-month follow-up assessment was performed to determine whether changes in clinic procedures had an impact on CD4 testing and ART initiation.

Results: Follow-up assessment of 95 pediatric clients seen July-December 2011 found that CD4 testing at enrollment had improved to 89%. The assessment also demonstrated that eligible patients

receiving ART had increased from 77% at baseline to 100% after 6 months.



[Mawenzi Hospital - Pediatric Quality of care]

Conclusions: A Quality improvement initiative undertaken by health facility staff was associated with a positive change in services being offered to children living with HIV. Periodic follow-up is important to maintain the improvement.

Country of research: United Republic of Tanzania

Related to women and girls: No

Related to children: Yes

Towards an HIV Cure: No
Symposium:

Ethical research declaration: Yes