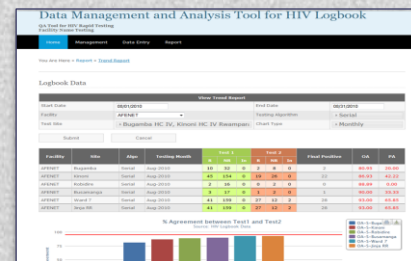
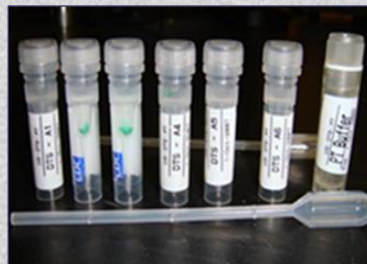


Right Tester, Right Place, Right Test, Right Results

Voluntary Quality Corp Officer

Curriculum Description



BACKGROUND

Global efforts to increase uptake of HIV testing services (HTS) have not always been matched with effort to ensure and improve the quality of testing. The current shift to test-and-treat approaches (e.g. Option B+, TB, children <5, discordant couples) makes confirmation of HIV diagnosis even more critical to avoid initiating life-long treatment for individuals falsely diagnosed as HIV positive. Therefore, responsible programming should strive to keep error rate as low as possible.

Leveraging existing resources will help facilitate the implementation of best practices and innovative strategies to strengthen the quality of testing and countries' capacity and drive the expansion of ART. Volunteer Quality Corps Program, which is an innovative approach to assist strengthening the Community POCT QA network, while helping ensure national coverage of HTS. The Q-Corp is intended to give the opportunity to new graduates (i.e. Bachelor and Masters) or community volunteers also known as Q-Corps Officers to address issues around workforce while gaining invaluable experience. In partnership with the African Society for Laboratory Medicine, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have developed this training program to increase the uptake of quality assurance activities in HTS settings.

PURPOSE

This training program aims to strengthen quality management systems for HIV rapid testing, increase uptake and coverage and achieve impact as countries are moving towards test-and-treat strategies.

METHODOLOGY

Didactic format: The training program is based on a participative methodology, with interactive exercises and includes both classroom and hands-on practical sessions. Instructor led demonstration; work group sessions and case studies provide the participants a better understanding of the new quality assurance tools and foster interaction with the instructors and other participants.

Activity-based curriculum: The foundation of this training program is a framework that defines the activities and tasks that low to mid-level professional must perform in order to deliver ensure and monitor the quality of testing in all HTS settings. Additionally, training activities are designed to enable mid- to high level laboratory professionals accomplish those tasks, using tools and job aides to adequately address quality related issues as they arise. It empowers mid- to high level professionals to implement corrective actions and monitor progress.

Emphasis on action and tangible improvement: Training content is based on the WHO/CDC HIV Rapid Testing Training Package which has been simplified with emphasis on hands-on activities and simple and practical tools and approaches to improve the quality of testing.

TARGET AUDIENCE AND PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

This training program primarily design to cover QA activities performed by lower and mid-level professionals. However, higher level professional such managers from regional laboratories and national reference laboratories can also benefit from this program as the QA activities and tools developed are intended to be implemented within a quality assurance cycle whereby everyone plays a critical role. The training objectives vary according to the target audience.

Level	Target Audience	Objective
Lower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-lab testers: nurse, midwife, lay counselors, etc... 	End users will gain knowledge and skills to perform HIV rapid testing
Mid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site supervisors District level laboratorians Q-Corp officers (Level I and Level II). 	To equip mid-level professional to adequately assist with the implementation and monitoring of QA tools
Higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National and regional level laboratorians Laboratory Quality Assurance Officer 	To transfer tools and technologies to high level lab professionals to design QA program and monitor the performance of testing in HTS settings

PROGRAM LENGTH

This interactive training program is composed of classroom presentation and 20+ hands-on activities. In addition to classroom training, this training program may be used as on-site training. Individual activities or tools may be selected on as-needed basis depending on the gaps identified by the HTS and Laboratory programs. The length of the program depends on the target audience.

- Lower level: 1-3 days
- Mid-level: 3-4 days
- Higher level: 5-6 days

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

This curriculum contains an introduction, a cross-cutting section, and 9 modules. The cross-cutting section includes several activities that span across the entire curriculum. The table below lists the segments in the curriculum.

<u>Curriculum</u>	
Introduction	
Module 1.	Quality Assurance
Module 2.	Overview of HIV Rapid Testing
Module 3.	Safety
Module 4.	Specimen collection storage and handling
Module 5.	HIV rapid testing algorithm
Module 6.	Logbook & Data Analysis
Module 7.	Introduction to proficiency testing using DTS
Module 8.	Professional Ethics

Module 9. Site audit using SPI-RRT checklist
TOTAL DAYS: 5-6 (includes Site Audit Practical)

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Criteria	Total Points	Minimum Acceptable Score	Comments
Attendance	10	100%	Mandatory attendance to all sessions
Pre training assessment	10	80%	Expected to be familiar with HTS and national QA programs
Understanding of training content	10	100%	Demonstrates knowledge of training content through group activities
Lab practical session	20	90%	Demonstrates best lab practices: safety measures, follow SOP/Job aides, correct test results
Site audit skills	30	80%	Uses audit techniques effectively and prepare a summation report that outlines key deficiencies, recommendations for improvement and timelines
Computer skills /data management understanding	10	80%	Ability to compile and analyze HTS testing register and site audit data
Post training assessment	10	90%	Expected to have improved knowledge on HTS and national QA programs
Performance Score	100	90%	Certified RT-CQI Master Trainer and Lead Auditor

OVERALL COMPETENCY LEVEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Master trainer and lead site auditor. ▪ Ready to facilitate trainings and conduct site audits using SPI-RRT checklist.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Needs more development as a facilitator and/or an auditor ▪ Should work under the guidance of more experienced trainers and auditors.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Does not have good facilitation and/or audit skills but understands the QAC concept well and has interpersonal skills. ▪ Can implement QAC tools at site level.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cannot facilitate or conduct site assessment. ▪ May be able to assist with logistic support or data management for the QAC.