**BACKGROUND**

In order to support efforts to achieve the first 95 of the UNAIDS targets, there is a need to ensure every individual seeking HIV testing receives an accurate result. However, the current set of quality measures in place and funding commitments may not be sufficient to adequately ensure the accuracy of testing. With global efforts, focusing on sustainable control of the epidemic, innovative based data driven strategies and approaches are critical to addressing the quality assurance implementation gaps.

To assist national programs and promote consistency in the application of quality management systems, a a standard tool, the Stepwise Process for Improving the Quality of HIV Rapid and Recency Testing (SPI-RRT) checklist has been developed for testing site audits. The checklist provides guidance on quality assurance (QA) practices for sites using HIV rapid tests to diagnose HIV infection and for sites using the rapid test for recent infection (RTRI) to determine whether a newly HIV diagnosed person has been infected within the past 12 months. The SPI-RRT checklist sets minimum standards for all HIV RT/RTRI testing points and provides is a continuous quality improvement (CQI) process which enables heads of testing sites and facilities to recognize quality gaps and shortcomings, identify areas for improvement and where additional resources may be needed to achieve national site certification.

**PURPOSE**

This training program aims to support continuous quality improvement at HIV rapid and recency testing sites toward certification using the Stepwise Process for Improving the Quality of HIV Rapid and Recency Testing (SPI-RRT) checklist for audit testing site.

**OBJECTIVES**

1. To train local staffs on HIV rapid and recency testing site audits using the SPI-RRT checklist.
2. To conduct baseline site audits using the SPI-RRT checklist
3. To review and analyze baseline audit data to generate audit reports

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

1. Pool of testing sites auditors identified and certified for national certification program
2. Baseline audits conducted for HIV rapid and recency testing sites
3. Audits data reviewed and analyzed to develop improvement plan

**TARGET AUDIENCE**

This training program is designed to target primarily mid to high level professionals providing oversight to the HIV program and HIV-1 recent infection surveillance in region, district and sites using the SPI-RRT checklist.

The following professionals may be selected for the training:

* National laboratory personnel and/or quality assurance officers
* National HIV/AIDS program representative with prior RTCQI training
* Regional or District HTS Coordinators with prior RTCQI training
* Regional or district laboratory technician and/or quality assurance Officers
* Trained Q-Corps volunteers (Level II)
* Recency implementing partners
* Recency lab coordinator

The number of participants required for this training is 20 - 30 mid-high-level professionals.

**PROGRAM LENGTH**

This training program is interactive and composed of classroom presentations, 12 hands-on activities, site audits and computer based-data management and analysis.

The length of the training program is six (6) days:

1. Three days of didactic sessions on the following:
   1. Key components on comprehensive quality assurance program
   2. Review of SPI-RT checklist version 3.0
   3. Review of the site audit tool using android tablet (ODK application)
   4. Conducting a site audit using the SPI-RT checklist
   5. Review and analysis of audit data
2. Two days to conduct the site audits and compile data for analysis and prepare summation reports (depending on location of sites and required travel)
3. One day to report on audit findings and the facilitators to provide feedback on the performance of the participants

**METHODOLOGY**

1. Didactic format

The training program is based on a participative methodology, with interactive exercises. Instructor led demonstration; work group sessions and case studies provide the participants a better understanding of the SPI-RRT checklist and foster interaction with the instructors and other participants.

Activity-based curriculum: The training activities are designed to enable auditors to conduct an audit using a paper-based checklist or android tablet and adequately address quality related issues as they arise. It empowers auditors to provide feedback and guidance on how to implement corrective actions as well as monitor progress.

1. Didactic materials

The training package include modules on key components of quality assurance and HIV testing procedures, forms, handouts, worksheet, audit SPI-RRT Checklist and relevant supporting documents.

1. Training language

The training will be conducted in English. However, in non-English countries, the training materials will be translated and the training will be conducted in the official language,

1. Profile and Number of facilitators required

The proposed ratio is one facilitator for up to four participants.

Pre-requisite: Laboratory professionals trained and certified in quality management systems or RTQII master trainers.

* The recommended facilitator/participants ratio is **1 facilitator for 3-4 participants.** Up to 10 local lead trainers will be selected from trained and certified SPI-RRT master trainers or auditors RTQII master trainers, SLMTA mentors, and SLIPTA auditors.
* For initial training, up to two master trainers will be selected from the CDC Headquarters team. Whenever possible, HQ team will be involved in subsequent in-country training.

**CONSIDERATIONS FOR SITE AUDITS**

1. Requirements for Site Selection
   1. Health facilities with multiple testing points
   2. Health facilities located within the vicinity of the training venue and facilities located in regions or districts that require limited travel
2. Logistics
   1. Training venue
      * For didactic sessions, discussions on audit finding and work-plan development
      * Teams that are traveling a further distance from the training venue will require a conference room or classroom at one of the facilities or nearby university to work with the facilitators to compile and analyze site audit data and complete summation reports
   2. Notification of sites- selected the sites should occur immediately after they have been identified and prior to the audit.
   3. The participants will be divided into two sub-groups and each sub-group will be further divided in teams of 3 participants and 1 facilitator for the site audits.
   4. Transportation

It is important to ensure that transportation allowance is provided the different audit teams.

*Note: There will be a need to audit up to 4 testing points in a single facility per day or 2 facilities with less than 3 testing points per day for each group composed of three participants and one facilitator.*

1. Equipment Required
   1. Computer and projector
   2. Flip Chart
   3. Laptop for participants
   4. Android Tablets (Proposed Specifications provided below)
      * Samsung Galaxy Tab 4, storage- 8GB, screen -8”inch with at least OS 1.6 or higher
      * Bluetooth keyboard with tablet cover (make sure the tablet cover has a hole in the back to enable the use of the camera)
      * Rain protector cover/carry case
      * Same tablet and configuration for all tablets and accessories
      * If you need to use a local 3G network, ensure you purchase unlocked tablets.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR AUDITOR CERTIFICATION**

The minimum acceptable scores as outlined below will be required to be considered as a certified SPI-RT auditor.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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, Recency and national QA programs |
| Understanding of training content | 10 | 100% | Demonstrates knowledge of training content through group activities |
| Site audit skills | 50 | 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 site audit data |
| Post training assessment | 10 | 90% | Expected to have improved knowledge on HTS, Recency and national QA programs |
| **Total** | **100** |  |  |