



health

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CIRCULAR MINUTE NO 2 OF 2012

INITIATION OF ANTI RETROVIRAL TREATMENT (ART) TO ALL HIV POSITIVE CHILDREN AGED 5 YEARS AND UNDER REGARDLESS OF CD4 COUNT AND/OR WHO CLINICAL STAGING

1. This circular serves to inform you that all HIV positive children aged 5 years and under should be initiated on ART regardless of CD4 count and/or WHO Clinical Staging with immediate effect.
2. Based on the findings of the recently completed rapid assessment that was conducted in health facilities, country wide, it was discovered that early identification of HIV exposed children is not optimal. Children are still being missed and furthermore, WHO clinical staging is not routinely performed on those children who test HIV positive.
3. National Data also indicates that targets for ART initiation of children are not being met.
4. This intervention should improve health outcomes, child survival and the quality of life of affected children.

Dr N R DLAMINI
CHIEF DIRECTOR: CHILD, YOUTH AND SCHOOL HEALTH

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