Understanding the Link
ART Centre
National AIDS Control Organisation
Session Objectives

- Describe the activities of the Link ART Centre and their relevance to the National AIDS Control Programme
- Distinguish between the Link ART Centre and the LAC Plus
Alternative Method: Case Study

- Individually read the case study given in Annexure 7 in the Handouts: A little interest goes a long way: Case study of the LAC Plus Centre at Gondal, District Rajkot, Gujarat – p. 175
- What items show that this is not just an ICTC but an LAC?
- What items show the system personally put in place by the counsellor?
- How does an LAC help?
Situational Analysis of clients of 27 ART centres

Adherence to Visit to the Centre
- Regular Visit to ART centre: 86
- Misses visit to ART centre: 14

Travel Distance
- >100 Kms: 30
- < 20 Kms: 36

Mode of Travel
- By train or bus: 76
- Other modes: 34
Objectives of the LAC

- Increase access of ART to PLHA
- Improved client’s adherence to ART
- Reduce travel cost and time
- Reduce gap between counselling & testing services and CST services
- Integrate CST services with primary & secondary health care systems
- Improve capacity of primary & secondary health care staff
Link ART Centre

A Programme Unit

Care, Support and Treatment Programme

- ARV drugs
- Adherence monitoring and support
- Treatment of minor OIs

A service facility closer to home for
Main Functions of the LAC

- Monitoring of PLHIV on ART
- OI Treatment and Prophylaxis
- HIV TB co infection
- Psycho-social Function
- Tracing LFU and Missed Clients (Pre-ART & on ART)
- Pre-ART Management through those centres designated as LAC Plus
Functions of the LAC

**Medical functions**
- Drug Dispensing
- Monitoring of PLHIV on ART: drug adherence, side effects & monitor OIs
- Minor OI Treatment & Prophylaxis
- Screening and referral for TB, Line Listing

**Programmatic functions**
- Tracing LFU and Missed Clients

**Counselling functions**
- Psychological support
- Linkage with schemes
- Monitoring of PLHIV on ART: drug adherence, side effects & monitor OIs

**Social functions**
- Linkage with other providers
- Minor OI Treatment & Prophylaxis
- Screening and referral for TB, Line Listing

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**Functions of the LAC Plus**
- All of the above
- Pre-ART Care
- Tracing Pre-ART Missed or LFU cases
Activity

- Turn to your handouts and fill in the table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>LAC</th>
<th>LAC Plus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dispensing ARV drugs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring PLHIV who are on ART</td>
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<td>Counselling on adherence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counselling on nutrition, risk reduction and positive prevention</td>
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Dispensing ARV drugs

- **Link ART Centre**: Yes
- **LAC Plus**: Yes – for people who are on ART
  No – for people who are pre-ART
Monitoring PLHIV who are on ART

- Yes
  - for people who are on ART

- No – for people who are pre-ART
Counselling on adherence

Link ART Centre: Yes

LAC Plus: Yes – for people who are on ART

No – for people who are pre-ART
Counselling on nutrition, risk reduction, positive prevention

- Link ART Centre: Yes
- LAC Plus: Yes
Treatment of minor OIs

- Link ART Centre: Yes
- LAC Plus: Yes
Treatment of major OIs

Link ART Centre: No

LAC Plus: No
Identification of side-effects of ARVs

- **Link ART Centre**
  - Yes

- **LAC Plus**
  - Yes – for people who are on ART
  - No – for people who are pre-ART
Tracing of Missed cases & LFU

Link ART Centre

Yes

LAC Plus

Yes
Screening for TB symptoms on every visit

- Link ART Centre: Yes
- LAC Plus: Yes
Social support to PLHIV

Link ART Centre

Yes

LAC Plus

Yes
Back-referral to ART Centre

Link ART Centre

Yes

LAC Plus

Yes
Registration of PLHIV into pre-ART care

Link ART Centre

No

LAC Plus

Yes
Pre-ART management including CD4 test

Link ART Centre
No

LAC Plus
Yes
Initiation of ART

Link ART Centre: No

LAC Plus: No
Activity

- Let us check our understanding of LAC and LAC Plus some more
Is this person eligible for LAC services?

Pre-ART patient whose baseline CD4 count is 423

No
Is this person eligible for LAC Plus services?

Pre-ART patient whose baseline CD4 count is 423

Yes
Is this person eligible for LAC Plus services?

No. As soon as it is determined the CD4 count has fallen, they must be linked back to Nodal ART Centre.

Pre-ART patient whose baseline CD4 count is 180
Is this person eligible for LAC Plus services?

Patient on ART who develops TB

No. Link back to Nodal ART Centre
Is this person eligible for LAC services?

ART patient who was initiated on ART 7 months before

Yes
Is this person eligible for LAC services?

No

ART patient who was initiated on ART 2 months before
Is this person eligible for LAC services?

No

ART patient on ART for 3 years and is showing side-effects
Is this person eligible for **LAC Plus** services?

ART patient who was initiated on ART 2 months before

**No**
Is this person eligible for **LAC Plus services**?

Pre-ART patient whose CD4 count is 557

Yes
Is this person eligible for LAC services?

Yes

ART patient who has developed a mild fever
Is this person eligible for LAC services?

ART patient who develops oral candidiasis

Yes
Is this person eligible for LAC services?

Female ART patient whose last CD 4 was 568 and who becomes pregnant

No