

NACP IV working group

1st meeting

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New Delhi

LABORATORY SERVICES

Working Group - Lab Services

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Preamble

Shift from NACP III to NACP IV

- Positioning laboratory services as an integral component for success of NACP IV
- Focus on quality
- Capacity development for integrating HIV testing into existing health systems

Procedure

- 8 objectives identified
- For each objective
 - Strategy
 - Primary outcome/s
 - Secondary outcomes
 - Indicatorsoutlined

Objective 1

- Laboratory services to be an integral component of the program
- Strategy:
 - Central level:
 - Microbiologist to exclusively head the division of lab services at NACO and supported by qualified technical staff
 - Development of a national core team from various institutions to support the program
 - State level:
 - Nodal officer for lab services in all SACS
 - Quality Manager in all SACS

Objective 1 - Primary outcome

- Central level
 - Quality of laboratory services and other programs dependent on laboratory results should improve
 - Strengthening of lab network
- State level
 - Creation of state level core teams for training of trainers
 - Dedicated, appropriately qualified laboratory specialists as nodal officers should be appointed
 - Constitution of TRG at state level
 - Representation of nodal officers in concerned specialty
 - List and contact details of the testing facilities should be available with the Nodal officers and disseminated to concerned SRLs

Objective 1 - Secondary outcome

- Central level:
 - Better integration of NACO laboratory network with program activities and also with other related national programs
- State level:
 - Representations of NRLs, SRLs and NACO
 - Better and wider human resource recruitment and training

Objective 1 - Indicators

- Central level:
 - Constitution of National core team for integrated training
 - No. of HIV testing centres performing tests for TB and STIs
 - No. of non NACO centres performing HIV testing and reporting results to designated authority
- State level:
 - No. of LTs other than NACO staff trained for HIV testing
 - Timely release and utilization of grants
 - Uninterrupted supply chain of reagents and consumables
 - No. of labs in accreditation cycle
 - Evidence and turnaround time for complaint redressal
 - Reduction in complaints

Objective 2

- Mentoring of the laboratory staff through the laboratory network
- Strategy: Establish a structure for technical supervision at every level

Objective 2 - Indicators

- Mandatory annual audit by technical officers of linked SRL using a standardised checklist
- Review of the audit by state TRG on a quarterly basis
- Implementation of corrective action by SACS

Objective 3

- HIV testing policy
- Strategy - Same as NACP III with minor modifications in clause 5.6.2

Objective 4

- Improving quality standards in laboratory services
- Strategy - Ensure conformance to quality standards in HIV testing at various levels
- Primary outcome - NABL accreditation of HIV testing laboratories
- Secondary outcome -
 - Increase in the scope of accredited tests beyond HIV testing
 - Advocate with regulatory bodies (e.g. MCI, DMER , DCGI), states and other national programs on impact of adherence to quality standards

Objective 4 - Indicators

- 100% NRLs and 60% SRLs should enter accreditation cycle. The remaining 40% should score at least 60% in internal audits conducted by NACO based on assessment checklist.
- No. of labs entering accreditation cycle for non HIV tests
- No. of states and other national programs taking initiatives to enter accreditation cycle

Objective 5

- Improvement in laboratory safety and biosecurity
- Strategy - Ensure safety of laboratory personnel, service users, community and the environment
- Primary outcome - Adherence to standard precautions and National Biomedical Waste Management Regulations
- Secondary outcomes -
 - Preventive action e.g. HBV vaccination of laboratory personnel
 - Incident reporting and corrective actions
 - Training of health care personnel in biosafety
 - Institution of occupational safety measures

Objective 5 - Indicators

- No. of centres reporting 100% coverage with HBV vaccination of laboratory personnel
- Proportion of centres having a system in place for documenting and reporting Incident occurrence and management

Objective 6

- Optimal human resource management
- Strategy –
 - Capacity building
 - Multitasking (lab testing)
 - Adequate remuneration and reduction in attrition

Objective 6

- Primary outcome –
 - Optimal utilization of the trained staff for providing a range of laboratory services
 - Harmonization of remuneration with other governmental agencies
- Secondary outcome –
 - Increase in the range and quality of laboratory services in collaboration with CTD and IDSP
 - Retention of trained laboratory staff

Objective 6 - Indicators

- Reduced attrition rates over time
- Proportion of lab personnel trained in and performing tests other than for HIV

Objective 7

- Innovative strategies for enhancing implementation of lab services
- Strategy –
 - Creation of e-resource for addressing needs of laboratories
 - Evaluation of appropriate newer technologies including point of care diagnostics
 - Evolve operational research strategies for optimal service delivery e.g. exploring methods for transport of samples, HIV-2 burden assessment and reassessment of HIV testing strategies/algorithms, feasibility of introducing incidence testing for surveillance
 - Sustain and expand the scope of NRL Consortium on Quality
 - Exploration of partnerships in public and private sector

Objective 7 - Primary outcomes

- Augmenting motivation of laboratory personnel
- Encouraging laboratory personnel to enhance their knowledge base
- Improved program delivery

Objective 7 - Secondary outcomes

- Rapid resolution of technical queries of laboratory personnel
- Determination of suitability of newer technologies for program use
- Wider geographic coverage using existing resources

Objective 7 - Indicators

- No. of e-resources created
- No. of personnel accessing the e-resources
- TAT for resolution of technical queries
- No. of appropriate newer technologies evaluated
- Identification of newer program delivery mechanisms e.g. Transportation of whole blood / serum to existing testing facilities
- No. of partnerships explored/established for enhanced program delivery

Objective 8

- Integration with NRHM
- Strategy - Initiation of pilot projects in some states (3-4) in consultation with NRHM e.g. HIV and STI testing of ANC attendees
- Primary outcome - Wider access to HIV/STI testing for antenatal mothers
- Secondary outcomes -
 - Increased detection of HIV positive mothers
 - Better coverage of PPTCT services

Objective 8 - Indicators

- No. of NRHM centres adopting antenatal HIV testing
- No. of HIV positive mothers referred by NRHM to PPTCT services

Challenges

- Recognition of the need and importance of laboratory services as integral to the program
- Lack of optimal systems for monitoring and evaluation
- Forecasting, procurement and supply chain management
- Rationalization of remuneration across technical human resource within the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Varying adequacies in health systems in states

THANK YOU