HEALTH SERVICES

Private Bag X628, PRETORIA, 0001 Civitas Building, c/o Struben and Thabo Sehume Streets
Tel (012) 395 8000, Fax (012) 395 8918
Enquiries: Dr NR Dlamini, Tel: 012 395 9015, Fax: 012 395 8486, Email: dlaminiR@health.gov.za

HEADS OF PROVINCIAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS
PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT MCWH, EPI, NUTRITION, HAST AND PMTCT MANAGERS
DISTRICT CLINICAL SPECIALIST TEAMS
DISTRICT AND PHC MANAGERS
HEALTH FACILITY MANAGERS

CIRCULAR MINUTE NO. 3 OF 2017/18 HIV/AIDS, TB & MCWH

AMENDMENT OF THE 2013 INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING (IYCF) POLICY

The 2013 Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) policy recommendation on the duration of breastfeeding for HIV infected women has been amended to align with the updated 2016 WHO/UNICEF guidelines.

The policy recommendation that HIV-infected women should stop breastfeeding at 12 months is revised. HIV-infected women who are breastfeeding should be supported to adhere to antiretroviral therapy (ART), and should be counselled and supported to exclusively breastfeed their infants for the first 6 months of life, to introduce complementary foods thereafter, and to continue breastfeeding for at least 2 years (pg 14 of the IYCF policy indicating the amendment is attached). This means that infant and young child feeding recommendations for HIV negative and HIV positive mothers are fully aligned. All healthcare workers are reminded of the importance of ensuring that all pregnant and breastfeeding HIV-infected mothers receive ART, together with adherence support.

The remainder of the IYCF policy, which emphases that breastfeeding should be protected, supported and promoted, remains unchanged.

It would be appreciated if the contents of this circular are communicated to all relevant officials.

DR Y PILLAY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: HIV/AIDS, TB & MCWH
DATE: 07/08/18

Batho Pele - putting people first
3. RECOMMENDED INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING PRACTICES

3.1 The main infant and young child feeding recommendations are summarised in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Feeding Recommendation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIV-negative women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV-positive mothers (and whose infants are HIV uninfected or of unknown HIV status) On lifelong ART</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV-positive mothers (and whose infants are HIV uninfected or of unknown HIV status) Not on lifelong ART</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV-positive mothers and whose infants are HIV infected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>