IMCI COMPLEMENTARY COURSE ON HIV/AIDS

INTRODUCTION

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Integrated Management of Childhood Illness Complementary course on HIV/AIDS was prepared by the World Health Organization's Division for Child and Adolescent Health.

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Introduction to the course and to the introductory module

Welcome to the IMCI Complementary course on HIV/AIDS.

Your facilitator will first conduct a short introductory session, after which you should read through the following introduction by yourself in order to reinforce what the facilitator has introduced. As you read through, think about the objectives of the course so that you can internalize them and work towards them throughout the course.

What is the purpose of this IMCI Complementary course on HIV/AIDS and how does it fit in with the standard IMCI case management training course?

Background:

According to the annual *AIDS Epidemic Update*, published by UNAIDS/WHO in December 2006, the number of people living with HIV globally continues to grow as does the number of deaths due to AIDS. A total of 39.5 million people were estimated to be living with HIV in 2006 and almost three million people died of AIDS-related illnesses; of these, more than 500, 000 were children. Globally, there are 2.3 million children living with HIV/AIDS, with children constituting 6% of people living with HIV worldwide, 13 percent of new HIV/AIDS infections and 17 percent of total HIV/AIDS deaths. More than 50% of children with HIV/AIDS die before the age of 2 years as a result of opportunistic infections and intercurrent common diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhoea, malnutrition and malaria – all of which are conditions targeted by IMCI.

Even though children living with HIV/AIDS respond very well to treatment with antiretroviral therapy (ART), to date few children living with HIV/AIDS have access to ART mostly due to a lack of cheap feasible diagnostic tests for infants, lack of affordable child-friendly ARV drugs and lack of trained health personnel.

This IMCI Complementary Course on HIV/AIDS aims to address the issue of lack of trained personnel. With an ever increasing burden of HIV and a high percentage of children infected, health workers urgently require accurate, up to date training and information on assessment and management of HIV in children. The IMCI complementary course on HIV is designed to assist health workers to assess, classify, treat and follow up HIV exposed infants and children, to identify the role of family and community in caring for the child with HIV/AIDS and also to enhance health workers' skills in counselling of caretakers around HIV/AIDS.

The course is designed, as the title suggests, to build upon and complement the existing IMCI case management course, which does not include assessment or management of HIV. The course should not replace the standard IMCI case management course; instead it aims to bridge a gap that might exist amongst health workers working in settings that have a high HIV burden.

The course has been developed for nurses, clinical officers, clinical assistants and general doctors who:

- are based at fixed clinics, mobile clinics, health posts and health centres (not referral hospitals) and
- have previous training in IMCI and
- are responsible for managing children and
- have or have not been trained in integrated management of adolescent and adult illness (IMAI)

What are the objectives of the course?

The course is presented in four modules:

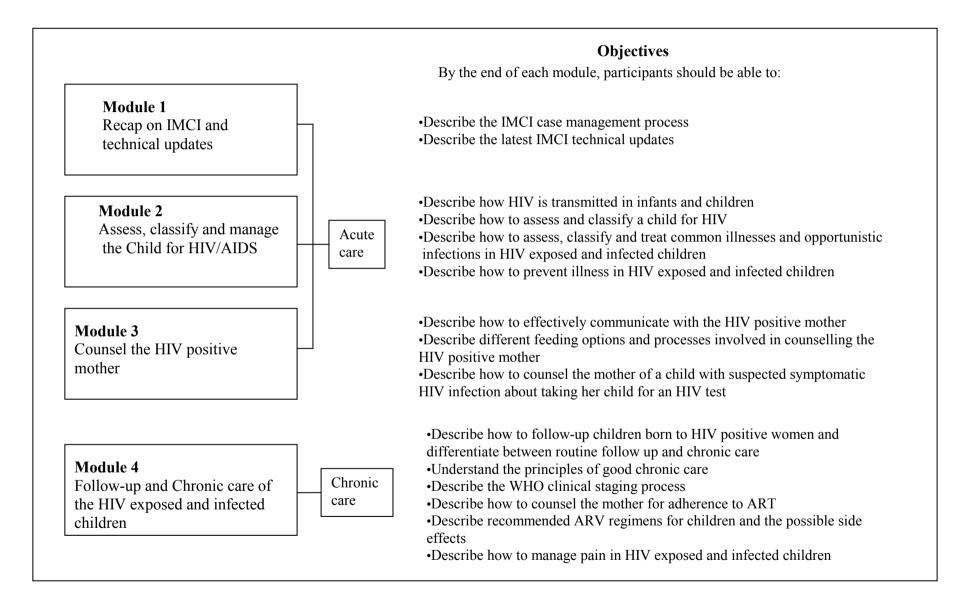
Focuses on exercises to recap participants' knowledge of IMCI.	
Recent technical updates to IMCI are also introduced in this module	
Focuses on assessing and classifying a child for HIV infection and	
treating and preventing illness in children born to HIV positive women	
Focuses on counselling HIV positive women	
Focuses on chronic care and follow up of children born to HIV positive	
women	

Objectives:

This IMCI Complementary Course on HIV specifically aims to increase participants' knowledge on:

- assessing and classifying young infants (aged up to 2 months) and children (aged 2 months up to 5 years) for HIV-infection
- assessing, classifying and managing common illnesses and opportunistic infections in young infants and children with HIV classifications including POSSIBLE HIV INFECTION / HIV-EXPOSED, SUSPECTED SYMPTOMATIC HIV INFECTION or CONFIRMED HIV INFECTION
- preventing illnesses in young infants and children born with to an HIV positive mother
- communication skills and counselling the HIV positive mother around infant feeding options
- follow-up of HIV exposed infants and children, including chronic care, clinical staging and initiation of antiretroviral therapy

The diagram on the next page provides an overall picture of the objectives of each module. Modules 1-3 are focused around acute care, whilst Module 4 introduces chronic care.



What is the teaching / learning approach?

The course adopts a participatory and interactive approach, built around the information contained in the chart booklets and the four modules that each participant will receive a copy of. The chart booklets and the individual module booklets are for participants to keep. As you work through the modules, you may highlight important points or write notes on the pages if you wish.

Participants will learn through a combination of individual reading, group discussion, written exercises, short answer exercises, facilitator-led drills, video exercises and demonstrations within clinical instruction sessions.

This course draws upon information presented in the IMCI case management course and the IMAI course. Throughout the course you should have the following materials available for cross-reference:

- The IMCI chart booklet
- The IMCI photograph booklet
- The IMCI guide for clinical practice in the inpatient ward
- The IMAI participants manual on acute care
- The IMAI photograph booklet

Throughout the 4 modules, three symbols are used to indicate the different types of exercise:

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SHORT ANSWER EXERCISE



Written exercise



Video or photograph exercise

You will meet 4 children at different time points as you go through the course: Mishu, aged 3 ¹/₂ months, Dan, aged 9 months, Ebai, aged 2 weeks and Henri aged 3 weeks. These children will help you to learn how to assess, classify and follow-up HIV exposed infants and children.

To optimise learning, this course uses adult-based methods such as individual reading and small group discussions guided by a facilitator. You should take advantage of the knowledge and skills of facilitators and of your fellow participants by engaging in the discussions, participating in the drills and exercises and raising questions or issues for discussion.

Once you have completed this course, you will receive a follow-up visit and regular supervision, as for IMCI. The person who does the supervisory visits for this course is likely to be the person who is already doing the IMCI supervisory visits. These visits are intended to be supportive and to help participants with any difficulties that they face with implementing what they have learnt when they return to their clinics.

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