

OptTEST Newsletter



**Issue No 5 - September
2015**

OptTEST at the 15th European AIDS conference in Barcelona

Presentations

OptTEST by HiE will be represented at EACS with 5 poster presentations. Congratulations to all the OptTEST investigators!

- Impact of Decentralized Drug Purchase on Antiretroviral Treatment Costs in Spain. **PE10/4**
- Evaluation of HIV Testing Recommendations in Specialty Guidelines for the Management of HIV Indicator Conditions. **PE15/22**
- Linkage to Care Following HIV Diagnosis in Europe: A Review of the Literature. **PE21/15 S**
- Healthcare Related Costs of Missed Opportunities for HIV Diagnosis: A Potential Driver to Increase Indicator Condition Guided HIV Testing. **PE21/30**
- Direct Costs of HIV/AIDS Care in Estonia. **PE22/8**

A HIDES 2 Poster will also be presented:

- Ongoing Mononucleosis-like Illness – A Clear Indicator Condition for HIV Testing: Results from the HIDES 2 Study – Single Arm Extension. **PE21/28 D**

Side-Meetings at EACS

OptTEST by HiE Steering Committee meeting
Wednesday 21 October 15-17:00h
Conference center room 212

Modelling Expert Meeting on "Cost-effectiveness of HIV Testing strategies in priority groups and regions"
Thursday 22 October 18-20:00h
Conference center room 212

Work Package 5 project meeting
Thursday 22 October 16-18:00h
Conference center room 215+216

Please confirm your participation, if you have not already done

Annual report

OptTEST by HiE's first annual technical and financial progress report was submitted to Chafea in late August 2015.

Social media

You can now find OptTEST on FB ([OptTEST by HiE](#)) and Twitter ([@OptTESTbyHiE](#)).

External evaluation

After a bid round for the upcoming external midterm evaluation of OptTEST the proposal by the consultants Kathy Attawel/ Roger Drew was selected and the evaluation process will begin shortly.

AIDS Impact

OptTEST by HiE was one of nine European Commission funded projects presented at the Chafea Health Programme symposium "Doing the right things right – Guidance, Standards and Quality in the European response to HIV and co-infections" at the AIDS Impact conference in Amsterdam, 28-31 July 2015.

Please visit the OptTEST.eu webpage to read more news.



so, to OptTEST.rigshospitalet@regionh.dk

Booth

OptTEST by HiE is presented at EATG's booth with posters, pamphlets and publications. Conference participants can also answer a survey about the 2010 ECDC HIV Testing Guidance, which HIV in Europe currently is evaluating.

Focus groups

As part of the evaluation, we are looking for participants interested in discussing the 2010 ECDC HIV Testing Guidance in focus groups: Thursday 22 October from 7.30-8.30am
Thursday 22 October from 12.30-13.30h Conference center room 212 Please sign up at: hie.rigshospitalet@regionh.dk

Core Work Packages

Work package 4: Linkage to and retention in HIV care after diagnosis The literature review on definitions of linkage to HIV care in Europe is finalised and results are written up into a journal article. At an expert meeting organised jointly by OptTEST and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) on 7-8 September experts discussed surveillance definitions for linkage to and retention in care. A meeting report will be circulated shortly.



Work package 5: Development and implementation of tools and strategies for indicator condition-guided HIV testing The pilot sites have commenced the indicator condition-guided HIV testing for HIV and data is reported on a weekly basis. Tool 1, which is a slide set introducing indicator condition-guided HIV testing at departmental level, is ready. Tool 2 on governance/ technical factors is undergoing review, and tool 3 on the practical delivery of testing is in process.

Work package 6: The cost-effectiveness of HIV testing strategies in priority groups and regions The data collection process in France, Spain and Estonia is almost completed and the first cost-effectiveness analyses using the

CEPAC (Cost-Effectiveness of Preventing AIDS Complications) model developed by the Kenneth Freedberg's team based in Boston, MA, USA have started. At the Modelling workshop at EACS the testing strategies proposed to be evaluated will be presented and discussed.

Work package 7: Stigma and legal barriers to the provision of HIV testing services The questionnaire on 'stigma and legal barriers to testing' has been distributed to civil society organisations and activists across Europe. Around 75 responses have been received (44 English/30 Russian). The Russian data is being translated into English, and a preliminary data-grid will be presented at the next SC meeting.

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