

BRINGING CARE TO THE MARGINS: HOW NURSES ARE REVOLUTIONIZING HEALTHCARE FOR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

- Underline the name of the person who will be facilitating the session
- Include a bio (maximum 60 words) for each speaker/facilitator
- Include affiliations/organisation for each speaker/facilitator. Use superscript numbering *after* their name to indicate affiliations

Phumzile Mngomezulu¹, Thembisa Mchunu¹, Rebecca Coetzee², Senzeni Chamane³,

1. TB HIV Care Organisation.
2. University of the Witwatersrand.
3. Indibano Victim Empowerment.

Description of session - What is the topic and what are the objectives of the session?

Nurses play a pivotal role in bridging gaps between communities and healthcare. Tailored services for marginalized populations in prisons, communities, and drop-in centres (DICs) have expanded care beyond traditional models, yet barriers persist. This session explores innovative care models for people who use drugs (PWUD), highlighting challenges, strategies, and successes. Facilitators will focus on experiences from South Africa and incorporate participant contributions to learn about experiences from other contexts.

Topics:

- The role of a nurse in comprehensive services for People who use drugs (PWUD)(HIV, Health and dignity).
- 'No man is an island' (The nurses role in collaborative care: multidisciplinary teams and stakeholders).
- Viral hepatitis and HIV management in prisons (Model and mechanisms).

Objectives

- Explore barriers to healthcare access in diverse settings, such as prisons, drop-in centres, and community outreach programs, and discuss strategies to overcome them.
- To identify practical strategies for building and sustaining partnerships.
- To share global strategies to managing HIV and viral hepatitis in prisons and post-release transitions, highlighting adaptable best practices.

How will the session encourage debate and idea sharing:

The session begins with a guided discussion outlining topics and engagement methods (5 min). This will be followed by an engagement inclusive of storytelling and experience sharing on how healthcare is revolutionised for PWUD (Prisons, outreach and Drop-in centre settings (10 mins per speaker, total = 30 mins)). A sticky note brainstorming technique will be used where the attendees will note down one challenge identified by any of the speakers and a best practice implemented in their country/setting (15 mins). Finally, a Q&A session will be conducted for questions and further insights (10 mins).

How will the session meet the aims of the conference / align with the conference themes?

By facilitating cross-learning through real world experiences and showcasing different models of care and programs. Successful programme implementations from various countries will be shared with the aim of providing actionable insights for healthcare providers (nurses, doctors etc).

Speakers/Facilitators:

Phumzile Mngomezulu:

A District Manager at TB HIV Care's People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) programme in Pretoria, South Africa. A registered nurse with 10 years of healthcare experience and three years' experience working with PWID. Holding a Master's in Public Health and a pre-doctoral candidate at University of the Western Cape (UWC). She contributes to the improvement of HIV care for underserved populations.

Rebecca Coetzee:

A lecturer in the Clinical Associate programme at Wits University, Johannesburg, she is a registered nurse specializing in child and adolescent psychiatry with over 10 years of experience. Holding a Master's in Nursing from Wits, she is passionate about supporting children under 12 years who use drugs; through family support, education, research, and advocacy.

Thembisa Mchunu:

A Regional Coordinator at TB HIV Care's Correctional Services Project in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. She is a registered nurse with 20 years of public healthcare experience, and five years' experience working at a correctional services project. She prioritizes patient education and collaboration. She holds a postgraduate diploma in public health with Regenesys College and is pursuing a Master's in Public Health with the University of South Africa (UNISA).

Senzeni Chamane:

Is a registered nurse at Indibano Victim Empowerment project, Johannesburg, South Africa. She has 10 years overall experience in public healthcare and 4 years' experience in Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) management. She holds a Bcur in Nursing education, occupational health and a postgraduate diploma in HIV/AIDS management obtained from the University of Stellenbosch. She is passionate about patient care and giving back to the community.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: *See example below:*

None