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# Talking testing in pregnancy

## Improving midwives' skills in HIV testing

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18 September 2019

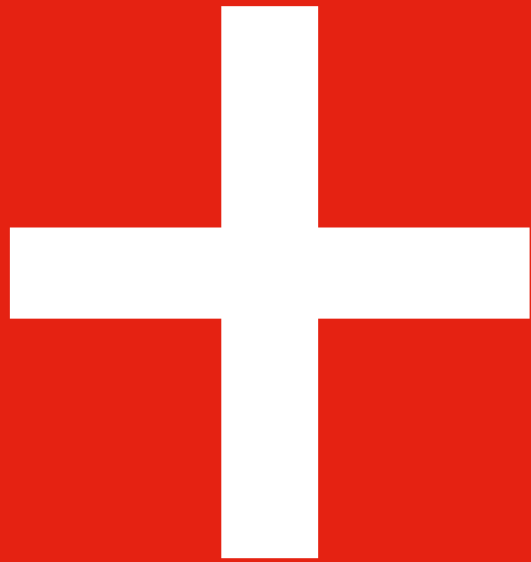


# Acknowledgement of Country

*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.*

# background

- *All pregnant women should be recommended to have HIV screening at the first antenatal visit*
  - ✓ Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) guidelines 2009
  - ✓ Australian Department of Health National HIV Testing Policy
- HIV testing is a routine pregnancy test
- But HIV testing is **not** routine practice for all antenatal care providers
- Crucial role of midwives



**knowledge**  
**confidence**  
**routine testing**

# Supporting midwives to initiate routine testing

- Collaboration between ARCSHS La Trobe University and Mercy Hospital for Women
- Education intervention
- Self-directed learning (pre reading and videos)
- One-day intensive study day
  - Lectures
  - Lived experience speaker
  - Workshop and role play
  - Demonstration videos

# Measuring change

- Four groups of midwives participated in 2017 and 2018 (n=71)
- Pre-intervention survey (n=55)
- Post-intervention survey (completed at the end of the study day) (n=69)
- 3-month follow up survey (n=22)

# Knowledge, practice and confidence

	Pre-intervention (n=55)	Post-intervention (n=69)	3-month follow up (n=22)
100% knowledge items correct	3.6%	30.4%	-
> 80% correct	40.0%	83.8%	-
HIV testing guideline correct	98.2%	98.6%	-
Never initiated screening	41.8%	44.93%	15.8%
<i>Not at all</i> confident at pre-test discussion	35.85%	0%	0%
<i>Moderately or very</i> confident at pre-test discussion	19.9%	84%	89%
<i>Moderately or very</i> confident discussing injecting history	43.64	84.06	63.16%
<i>Moderately or very</i> confident with basic counselling skills	61.8%	31.88%	94.74%

# So what?

- Increase in the proportion of midwives initiating screening
- Increase in knowledge and confidence
- An additional step post- intervention may have further improved confidence
- Specialised workforce support is still needed to address workforce barriers to initiating and normalising testing
- Learnings for syphilis screening in pregnancy



# Acknowledgements

- Contact [j.johnson@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:j.johnson@latrobe.edu.au)
- Project partners Caroline Carr from Mercy Hospital for Women and Professor Susan McDonald from La Trobe University and Mercy Hospital for Women
- Thanks to the Victorian midwives who participated in the intervention and agreed to be part of this study
- Thanks also Dr Margaret Flood, Margaret Sutherland and Judith Gorst
- The BBV Sector Development program is funded by the Victorian Department of Health

# Conflict of Interest

- The authors have no conflict of interest to report.



**Thank you**

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