

Changes to maternity guidelines for pregnant women living with HIV

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Issues: Delay in updating the Ministry of Health National Maternity Referral Guidelines 2012 to reflect advances in HIV treatment led to the lack of a coordinated approach to the care of women living with HIV. Women have often felt powerless and were denied choice about their birth experience

Description: The ***tipping point*** has been the recognition that according to international guidelines HIV alone no longer met the criteria for Medical Clinic care led to revision of the 'Pathway for Pregnancy Care of Women with HIV Infection'. Women who remain on medication with an undetectable viral load are now able to choose a Lead Maternity Care midwife who can provide continuity of antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care

Lessons learned: The importance of listening to healthcare consumers and adapting provider policies to reflect current research and best practice. The role of non governmental peer advocacy groups in leading dialogue and positive change

Next steps: Implementation of the new policy in Auckland DHB, including HIV Update workshops for midwives. It is hoped that sharing this presentation will lead to updated MOH National Guidelines and an integrated approach throughout the country