

Module 3: Using the PMTCT Counseling Cue Cards



Module 3: Learning Objectives

- Understand why the PMTCT counseling cue cards were developed and how they can be used by health workers
- Discuss how the PMTCT counseling cue cards could be used in your clinic setting
- Be familiar with the key messages in each of the counseling cue cards
- Use the PMTCT counseling cue cards as an aide/guide when working with clients in various stages of the PMTCT care spectrum

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How to Use the Counseling Cue Cards

- Developed to support providers who work with pregnant women living with HIV and their families
- There are 20 cue cards. Each card focuses on a specific topic important to the care and support of pregnant women living with HIV, across the PMTCT continuum of care
- Providers may use the cue cards as job aides and reminders of key information to cover during clinic visits and counseling sessions
- The cue cards do not have to be used in sequence, but instead should be used according to the client's specific situation, needs, and concerns

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How the Cue Cards are Set Up

- **Key questions** are included in *italics*, and may be used to initiate discussions, learn more about what the client already knows and her specific concerns, and to gauge understanding and elicit follow-up questions
- **Notes to guide counselors** are also included in *italics*
- The margins of each card contain **cross-references** to other cards on related topics

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Discussion Questions

- What are your impressions of the counseling cue cards?
- How do you think the counseling cue cards could be used in your clinic?
- Who could use the cue cards? When? In what situations?
- What next steps would you take to use the cue cards in your clinic?



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Discussion Questions for Case Studies in Small Groups

- What are some of the retention, adherence, and psychosocial issues and challenges you think this client is facing?
- What are the key issues and messages you would focus on with this client?
- Which of the cue cards do you think would be helpful to guide your session with this client?

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Discussion Questions for Role Plays

- What were the key issues for the client in this case study? Key retention and adherence issues? Key psychosocial issues? Other issues?
- What did the health worker do well in the session?
- What other points do you think the health worker could have discussed with the client?
- How did the health worker use the counseling cue cards during the role play? Which cue cards did he or she use?
- For the health worker: What were your experiences using the counseling cue cards? What was easy? Challenging?

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Module 3: Key Points

- All health workers should be up-to-date and knowledgeable about their national PMTCT guidelines.
- Pregnant and postpartum women and caregivers of HIV-exposed and HIV-infected babies and children often have a number of retention, adherence, and psychosocial support needs that may change over time.
- Quality communication and counseling in the PMTCT setting can lead to increased retention, adherence, and psychosocial wellbeing among clients.
- Health workers can use counseling cue cards to help explain the basics of PMTCT care and remember key counseling messages for clients in different places along the PMTCT care spectrum.

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Module 3: Key Points, con't.

- Each clinic should have a specific plan on how the counseling cue cards are used (who, when, where, how, etc.).
- Counseling is a part of everyone's job and all multidisciplinary team members should be familiar with and have copies of the counseling cue cards.
- When talking with clients, it is always important to use the 7 key counseling and communication skills (discussed in Supplemental Module 6).

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Any Questions?



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