



**HIV STRATEGIC INFORMATION FOR IMPACT**

**IMPLEMENTATION TOOL**

# **MODULE FOR ASSESSING AND STRENGTHENING THE QUALITY OF VIRAL LOAD TESTING DATA WITHIN HIV PROGRAMMES AND PATIENT MONITORING SYSTEMS**

SEPTEMBER 2020



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ISBN 978-92-4-001037-6 (electronic version)

ISBN 978-92-4-001038-3 (print version)

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Suggested citation. Module for assessing and strengthening the quality of viral load testing data within HIV programmes and patient monitoring systems: implementation tool. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020. Licence: **CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO**.

**Cataloguing-in-Publication (CIP)** data. CIP data are available at <http://apps.who.int/iris>.

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Web Annex G. Site summary template for external data quality assurance activities

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Web Annex I. Site-level template for a data quality improvement action plan

<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/336211/9789240010451-eng.pdf>

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This module for viral load data quality assessment and strengthening is the result of a collaborative effort between WHO, UNAIDS, the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

We would like to thank the individuals who contributed to this document and provided key input into the concepts and materials presented, including Lara Vojnov, Brian Chirombo and Lastone Chitembo (WHO), Kim Marsh and Ian Wanyeki (UNAIDS), Jinkou Zhao (Global Fund), Ana Djapovic Scholl and Webert Jose (United States Agency for International Development), John Aberle-Grasse, Sadhna Patel and Nadia Solehdin (United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

Françoise Renaud and Hiwot Haile-Selassie (WHO) coordinated the overall process of the development of this module under the leadership and guidance of Daniel Low-Beer (WHO). Meg Doherty (WHO) provided overall leadership and coordination.

## Financial acknowledgement

Funding to support this work came from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In addition, WHO thanks the institutions that contributed staff time and other contributions to the guidance development process.

# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ART	antiretroviral therapy
ARV	antiretroviral
DBS	dried blood spot
DHIS2	District Health Information Software
DQ	data quality
DQA	data quality assessment
DQI	data quality improvement
EMR	electronic medical record
Global Fund	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
LIMS	laboratory information management system
LQAS	lot quality assurance sampling
PEPFAR	United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PLHIV	People living with HIV
TB	tuberculosis
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VL	viral load
WHO	World Health Organization

# GLOSSARY

**Cross-validation:** Comparison of the consistency of key data elements between different sources, in which patient files are usually used as the main source document or gold standard.

**Data quality (DQ) assurance activity:** used as an umbrella term to refer to the range of DQ activities recommended in this module, including routine DQ assessment, DQ monitoring via supportive supervision or using lot quality assurance sampling (LQAS) and routine site level data/performance review.

**Data quality assessment:** one of the DQ assurance activities recommended in this module. Its primary activity involves recounting and verifying indicators to enable comparison with those reported to ministries of health. This module recommends routine data quality assessment. However, nationally representative data quality assessments or audits may be implemented to validate national viral suppression data or based on programmatic needs, including findings of previous routine DQ assurance activities that indicate persistent or substantial DQ challenges or discrepancies between different data systems or partner data.

**Data quality improvement:** a process designed to strengthen the quality of data and the underlying data management and reporting systems. It encompasses a broad range of activities, including but not limited to training and mentoring, developing standard operating procedures for data entry, cleaning and management, deduplicating data, updating electronic and paper data sources and DQ assurance activities.

**Decision rule:** a rule used for DQ monitoring using lot quality assurance sampling (see below for definition). The decision rule determines how many records (such as patient files) need to be sampled within the source document (such as an antiretroviral therapy register) for the entire lot to be classified as acceptable.

**Lot:** a lot is the collection of patient records in a source document: for example, a register.

**Lot quality assurance sampling:** a DQ assurance activity described in this module that uses a classification method to define acceptable and unacceptable levels of data completeness and consistency.

**Person-centred monitoring:** refers to monitoring that places the person at the centre of accessing and measuring a sequence of health services (such as from testing to linkage to treatment) and involves people and benefits to them in the monitoring process. In the context of this publication, it refers to a shift from measuring services (such as the number of HIV tests or the number of people receiving treatment) to supporting people receiving HIV and health services by putting them at the centre of monitoring.

**Source document:** in this module, this describes the main document (usually patient charts or files) used as the gold standard to assess and cross-validate data elements captured in other data sources such as registers, electronic medical records and laboratory information management systems.

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