

POSTER PRESENTATION

Open Access

Can we get the benefits of integrated services? An evaluation of the delivery of integrated prenatal HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B testing services in China

Jianhong Xia^{1,2*}, Yuanzhu Ma², Shuang Gao², Shannon Rutherford¹, Xiaozhuang Zhang², Cordia Chu¹

From Health Services Research: Evidence-based practice
London, UK. 1-3 July 2014

Background

Integration of services for prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV into routine maternal and child health care has been promoted as a priority strategy by WHO to help optimize health outcomes for mother and children [1]. However, integrated services require a shift in the management model from providing stand-alone services to integrating services, which requires more complex management [2]. China initiated the process of integrating prenatal HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B testing services in 2009, and many health agencies need to work together [3]. So this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of the current integrated services and examine barriers to coordination in this complicated service system in China.

Materials and methods

The research was conducted in Guangdong province, used mixed quantitative and qualitative methods. We drew quantitative data from routine monitoring system for PMTCT and a quantitative survey; and collected interviews for qualitative data to assess and examine barriers.

Results

The testing rates of prenatal HIV, syphilis and hepatitis testing were 95%, 47% and 47% respectively, which were inconsistent, although the three testing services have been integrated. For the prenatal HIV testing service, it took an average of one month to get results because of multi-agency referrals. In addition, almost 80% of the

positive mothers were not referred to the hospitals for continuous monitoring and treatment services. The reasons behind these statistics are that the responsibilities assigned to the different health agencies were not clear, and outcome evaluation was not consistent among different health agencies. There was a lack of concrete coordination and referral scheme which must be built on the basis of effective collaboration and communication between different health agencies.

Conclusions

The results indicate that the benefits of integrated services have not been completely achieved in China. The many barriers to coordination in a complex health service system form a great challenge to effective delivery of integrated services. A concrete operational strategy is needed to fill the gap in order to achieve the desirable outcomes from integrated services.

Authors' details

¹Centre for Environment and Population Health, Griffith University, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. ²Health Care Department, Guangdong Province Maternal and Children Health Care Hospital, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China.

Published: 7 July 2014

References

1. WHO: *Global health sector strategy on HIV/AIDS 2011-2015 2011: a new health sector agenda for HIV/AIDS*. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 2011 [http://www.who.int/hiv/pub/advocacy_brochure/en/pdf].
2. Dichinson C, Attawell K, Druce N: *Progress on scaling up integrated services for sexual and reproductive health and HIV*. *Bull World Health Organ* 2009, **87**:846-851.

¹Centre for Environment and Population Health, Griffith University, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

3. MOH: Report on Women and Children's Health Development in China 2011. Beijing, China: Ministry Of Health; 2011 [http://www.gov.cn/gzdt/2011-09/21/content_1952953.htm.pdf].

doi:10.1186/1472-6963-14-S2-P140

Cite this article as: Xia *et al.*: Can we get the benefits of integrated services? An evaluation of the delivery of integrated prenatal HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B testing services in China. *BMC Health Services Research* 2014 **14**(Suppl 2):P140.

**Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central
and take full advantage of:**

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at
www.biomedcentral.com/submit

