

NCOP

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 151

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 06)

Ms D C Christians (Northern Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Health:

(a) What is the progress regarding the HIV/Aids-related cases of patients in the country that have forfeited their treatment and (b) how many such persons have been traced and are back on scheduled treatment?

CW159E

REPLY:

(a) The country has fully optimized the trace and recall of the ART and TB patients who did not collect their treatment/missed appointment or loss to follow up. The tracing and recalling of patients are integrated in the Covid-19 tracing interventions by the same tracing team, to inform and encourage patients to return and collect their treatment, or to restart treatment.

The noted progress is informed by the Adherence Guidelines (AGL) for HIV, TB and NCDs. The AGL provide guidance to tracing and recalling patients who were lost or missed their appointments through the following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs): SOP8 – which is the Tracing and Recall, and SOP9 – which is the Re-engagement. These SOPs are fully aligned and integrated in the Implementation of the Welcome Back Campaign strategy, which seeks to support re-engagement and retention of PLHIV who were diagnosed but never initiated on ART, and those who were initiated on treatment and interrupted ART or missed their ART appointment.

The main drivers to this progress are the Health Care Workers and non-clinicians who are always encouraged to refer to these SOPs (Tracing and Recall, Re-engagement in Care) as well as Central Chronic Medicine Dispensing and Distribution (CCMDD) SOPs.

The scale up of Differentiated Service Delivery (DSD) is integral to avoid one size fits all approach and fosters the patient centred approach. Guided by the Tracing and Recall and Re-engagement Standard Operating procedures, each province in South Africa applies its own contextual innovations to enhance tracing and re-engagement in Care. Limpopo province for instance uses the “Karabo model” (Answer). The KwaZulu-Natal province used the “Operation Vuyo Model” (happy to see you back). The Mpumalanga province uses “I am Mpilo” (Health/Life), and the Free State province uses “I am Thuso” (Help).

Community Health Workers (CHWs’) are responsible for tracing and recalling clients. Linkage Officers (LOs) – responsible for handshake and connecting clients to clinicians upon the back to care (to determine treatment interruptions and managing the patients accordingly and providing necessary Enhanced Adherence Counselling).

(b) Community health workers under WBPHCOTS (Ward Based Primary Health Care Outreach Teams Services) managed to trace ART and TB patients back in care over the period April-December 2021 total of:

ART patients	353,213
TB patients	43,504

For further reference and to enhance ongoing capacity, both the Adherence Guidelines SOPs and the Welcome Campaign Strategy are available at NDOH knowledge hub using the link below:

(<https://www.knowledge-hub.org.za/elibrary/adherence-guidelines-hiv-tb-and-ncds>).

END.