



International Center *for* Equal Healthcare Access
The global leader in clinical skills rapid transfer to emerging nations

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Title:

Clinical mentoring: effective and rapid tool improves clinical care skills for TB/HIV in developing countries

Background:

The high rate of HIV seroprevalence among TB patients in developing countries is a public health priority. While treatment is increasingly available, there remains a lack of clinical expertise among local healthcare workforce to meet the expanding patient demand. In order to rapidly create practical expertise amongst local health professionals, Ministries of Health in developing countries are including “clinical mentoring” in their healthcare capacity building programs.

Description:

ICEHA (International Center for Equal Healthcare Access; www.iceha.org) provides clinical mentoring by healthcare providers with HIV and TB expertise to complement national didactic training in resource-poor settings. Its award winning model rapidly and effectively transfers clinical skills from one practitioner to another. ICEHA clinical mentors coach colleagues for defined periods of time, 6 – 12 weeks, on a pro bono basis in local settings. ICEHA has implemented mentoring program in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Oceania. Mentoring ensures provision of optimal HIV/TB treatment and prevention by local health providers within available resources.

Results:

ICEHA clinical mentors have been successful in all country programs across Asia and Africa. Mentoring has flexibility and specificity to address the unique issues particular to individual settings. Evaluation consistently shows a significant increase in knowledge and awareness of TB/HIV coinfection among mentored health workforce. Local providers gained expertise in screening procedures, case detection, case treatment and monitoring. Clinical mentoring was critical to rapid improvement in care for people with HIV/TB coinfection.

Conclusion:

Clinical mentoring in patients with TB/HIV coinfection rapidly expands local treatment expertise and is an essential pillar national treatment and prevention schemes.

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