Results The least costly strategy is nurse led PN (strategy 2) costing approximately £53 per index case (2011 costs). The most costly strategy is provider referral (strategy 6) which cost £96 per index case.

Conclusion Where health service providers assume responsibility for contacting partners there will be substantial additional cost. Before any such policy is implemented, a demonstrable improvement in PN outcomes should be established.

[Development of a validated questionnaire for HIV attendees]

Background Patients are becoming more actively involved in decisions about their care and have greater influence to change and improve the quality of services by reporting their experiences. Within HIV services, positive experiences increase engagement with services and have been linked to higher levels of treatment adherence. A previous systematic review assessing satisfaction with care failed to locate a gold standard method of measuring satisfaction in this setting.

Method Aim to design a specific HIV patient satisfaction questionnaire

Method Four work streams were employed to develop and test a new questionnaire. Firstly, key themes identified in the systematic review were used as a topic guide for focus group discussion to assess their relevance and importance. Four focus groups comprising 32 participants were conducted and revealed the importance of physician knowledge and expertise; dignity, autonomy and respect; and good communication. The second stream involved interviews with ten patients, exploring their motivation to complete a questionnaire. Thirdly, data from the focus groups and interviews were used to develop an initial questionnaire which was cognitively tested on a further ten patients, this provided face validity for the questionnaire design, layout and wording. The final stream employed a pilot study of the questionnaire with 80 clinic attendees.

Results The pilot survey demonstrated that there was a high completion rate. Two questions were modified and additional routing instructions were added. Pairwise correlations reflected the thematic structure of the questionnaire and supported good criterion validity.

Conclusions The combination of a systematic analysis of previous patient survey tools, focus group discussions and cognitive testing of the questionnaire was used to ensure high content validity. The questionnaire was found to be acceptable to patients and a high completion rate was attained without the use of a financial incentive.

[Vertical transmission of HIV by age of infant testing and type of mother/infant prophylaxis in Tigray, Ethiopia]

Background Following a number of other African countries, Ethiopia has recently adopted option B+ as the national PMTCT standard. Option B+ puts all HIV-positive pregnant women on HAART for life, regardless of the CD4 count. This study examines whether HAART for maternal prophylaxis resulted in lower vertical HIV transmission in Tigray.

Methods We used data from Tigray’s regional DBS data base to calculate HIV infection rates by PMTCT regimen in all HIV-exposed infants (HEIs) tested by December 2012. We calculated the relative risk (RR) of having a HIV+ baby by age of testing and the mother’s PMTCT regimen.

Results There was a significant difference in HIV rates between babies tested at 0–2 months (4%) and 2–8 months (9%) (RR = 0.43, CI = 0.28,0.65; p = 0.0001). HAART infection was significantly higher in babies tested past 8 months (16%) (respectively, RR = 0.23, CI = 0.14,0.38; p < 0.0001 and RR = 0.55, CI = 0.36,0.86; p = 0.005). Maternal prophylaxis was a significant factor with a further significant difference between HAART (2%) and dual prophylaxis (14%) (RR = 0.57; CI = 0.19,0.74; p = 0.006).

Conclusions This study underscores the importance of putting HIV-positive pregnant mothers on PMTCT, especially HAART, and promoting institutional delivery and early infant testing. HAART was the most effective PMTCT regimen, regardless of the infant’s regimen. This finding is particularly important in Ethiopia where most women give birth at home and may not be able to give the right medication to their baby at the right time. This data strongly