Additional file 1

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| **Policy indicator** | **Date of adoption** | | | | | |
|  | **Kenya** | **Malawi** | **South Africa** | **Tanzania** | **Uganda** | **Zimbabwe** |
| **ART access** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ART should be initiated in patients with a CD4 count of 500 cells/µL and below | June 2014 [1] | April 2014 [2] | December 2014 [3] | May 2015 [4] | December 2013 [5] | December 2013 [6] |
| ART should be initiated in patients co-infected with HIV and hepatitis B virus | June 2014 [1] | April 2014 [2] | December 2014 [3] | May 2015 [4] | December 2013 [5] | December 2013 [6] |
| ART should be initiated in HIV infected pregnant and breastfeeding women | June 2014 [1] | April 2014 [2] | December 2014 [3] | May 2015 [4] | December 2013 [5] | December 2013 [6] |
| ART should be initiated in HIV-infected sero-discordant couples | June 2014 [1] | April 2014 [2] | December 2014 [3] | May 2015 [4] | December 2013 [5] | December 2013 [6] |
| Viral load tests should be used to monitor ART patients | June 2014 [1] | April 2014 [2] | December 2014 [3] | May 2015 [4] | December 2013 [5] | December 2013 [6] |
| Recommended first line ART regimen is TDF + FTC (or 3TC) + EFV | June 2014 [1] | April 2014 [2] | December 2014 [3] | May 2015 [4] | December 2013 [5] | December 2013 [6] |
| Nurses or midwives can initiate and maintain patients on first line ART | December  2005 [7] | April 2008 [8] | April 2010 [9] | April 2012 [10] | May 2003 [11] | May 2010 [12] |
| **Retention in care** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| SMS reminders messages should be used to improve ART adherence | June 2014 [1] | April 2014 [2] | December 2014 [3] | Not in policy | December 2013 [5] | December 2013 [6] |
| Implement strategies (e.g. appointment system) to reduce waiting times at the clinic | Not in policy | Not in policy | Not in policy | Not in policy | Not in policy | Not in policy |
| ART maintenance can be done in the community | Not in policy | Not in policy | Not in policy | Not in policy | Not in policy | Not in policy |
| Community health workers can dispense ART | Not in policy | Not in policy | Not in policy | Not in policy | Not in policy | Not in policy |

\*Tenofovir (TDF)) + emtricitabine (FTC) (or lamivudine (3TC)) + efavirenz (EFV) \*\*Implemented before 2013 WHO recommendations

**References**

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