

SUCCESS STORY

Provision of TB Preventive Therapy to an unexposed HIV positive client.



Peace (not real name) is a 26-year-old HIV positive female who lives in Kansanga. One day in December 2016, Peace presented to Kisugu health centre III with her husband (Paul) who had been unwell for two months. They had been referred from a nearby private clinic for HIV care.

At enrollment into HIV care in Kisugu, the couple was screened for TB. Paul was symptomatic for TB and later diagnosed with bacteriologically confirmed pulmonary TB. He was started on TB treatment and initiated on ART that day. Peace did not have symptoms suggestive of TB and her CD4 was high [above 500 cells/mm³] so she was started on Septrin to prevent opportunistic infections as she did not qualify to start ART. She was also evaluated for isoniazid preventive therapy (IPT) in line with the national guidelines and had no contraindications to isoniazid. Peace was then counseled for IPT and initiated on the 6-months isoniazid on the same day.

There are 130,000 people living with HIV in Kampala and Wakiso districts that are eligible to receive isoniazid preventive therapy. Recognizing the knowledge gap in initiating IPT in line with the national guidelines, the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) with funding from the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention (CDC), has trained over 150 health workers from 47 supported health facilities to administer IPT. IDI has provided health workers with IPT job aides, recording and reporting tools as well as provided technical support to facility teams to ensure smooth implementation of IPT.

After three months, Peace was also initiated on ART in line with the national Test and Start guidelines. She successfully completed her 6-months IPT in June 2017. Paul also successfully completed his TB treatment and was declared cured. The couple is currently active in HIV care, virally suppressed and expecting their first child.

“I am happy that my husband is doing well and now able to follow up our catering business that had been affected due to his long ill health” said Peace. “I am well and have no symptoms of TB”

To date, over 4,300 eligible PLHIV in Kampala and Wakiso districts have been provided with IPT and 85% of them have completed the recommended 6-months IPT treatment duration.

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