



UNIVERSITY OF NATAL

**COMPREHENSIVE STUDENT HIV/AIDS
PREVENTION, TREATMENT & CARE POLICY**

Submitted by:

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1. POLICY

The University of Natal is committed to providing, to the best of its capability, an effective and efficient HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment & care programme for students on campus, based on sound scientific principles.

The level of care offered by the University of Natal will be determined by budgetary considerations; the reality of the sustainability of such care interventions; and by the provision of services by the public health sector. This policy does not guarantee comprehensive treatment to all HIV+ students.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 The University means the University of Natal.
- 2.2 Student means a registered contact student at the University of Natal, attending lectures on its various campuses. This excludes persons studying through distance education at the University of Natal as well as students registered for non-degree purposes.
- 2.3 HIV means the Human Immunodeficiency Virus.
- 2.4 AIDS means the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome that is the latter phase of HIV infection.
- 2.5 HIV testing means the taking of blood for the purpose of conducting an assessment of the presence of HIV antibodies. Such testing includes pre- and post-test counselling.
- 2.6 Prophylactic treatment means medicines taken to prevent a disease from occurring.
- 2.7 The Programme refers to the University of Natal Comprehensive Student HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care Programme.
- 2.8 The Policy means the University of Natal Comprehensive Student HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care Policy.
- 2.9 Preferred provider means a hospital or medical practitioner identified by the University as meeting predetermined minimum standards of care, to provide specialized treatment to HIV+ students.

3. THE PROGRAMME

The Programme consists of four core components, namely:

3.1. Prevention

The availability of appropriate policies, procedures, projects and initiatives to prevent the transmission of HIV including:

- 3.1.1 Provision of post-exposure prophylactic treatment. The Management of Sexual Assault Policy and the Occupational Exposure to HBV and HIV Policy provide immediate post-exposure

prophylactic treatment to students who have been sexually assaulted or exposed, during the course of any activities related to the University, to potentially infected bodily fluids.

3.1.2 Access to condoms. Male condom dispensers are installed in residences and in buildings on campus. Female condoms are available from the Campus Health Clinics.

3.1.3 Peer Facilitation and Peer Counselling Programmes are designed to train students on HIV/AIDS and related issues and to encourage them to speak to their peers, formally and informally, about HIV/AIDS.

3.1.4 Educational brochures are developed specifically for students at the University of Natal.

3.1.5 Health Promoters are persons, preferably students, who are living openly with HIV/AIDS. They fulfill the following tasks:

- i. Facilitate HIV+ support groups;
- ii. Give talks in lectures;
- iii. Run workshops in residences; and
- iv. Give talks during the Peer Facilitation and Peer Counselling Programmes.

3.2. **Voluntary Counselling and Testing**

The promotion and provision of Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT), including comprehensive post-test counselling aimed at behaviour change.

3.3. **Care of HIV+ Students at the Campus Health Clinic**

The provision of information, counselling, clinical monitoring and medical treatment for students infected with HIV/AIDS. This includes the provision of prophylaxis, the treatment of opportunistic infections and the monitoring of CD4 counts.

3.4. **Referral to a Preferred Provider for Specialized Care**

The Campus Health Clinic refers a student, with a CD4 count of below 250, to an identified¹ preferred provider with expertise in the treatment of HIV/AIDS. The preferred provider clinically assesses the student and advises on his/her clinical management. If specialized treatment is required, including the provision of antiretroviral treatment, the preferred provider continues with the management of the HIV+ person.

The University of Natal contributes towards the cost of specialized treatment at the preferred provider². These contributions are only made while the patient is a registered student at the University of Natal. The student is liable for the balance of the costs incurred at the preferred provider. In the event of the student not paying his/her component of the costs, the University will not be held liable. In addition,

¹ University of Natal AIDS Task Force will identify preferred providers based on predetermined minimum standards of care. At the last meeting of the University of Natal AIDS Task Force, McCord Hospital and Dr P Appelt were agreed upon.

² University of Natal AIDS Task Force will determine the proportion of contribution on an annual basis. At the last meeting of the University of Natal AIDS Task Force, a ratio of 70:30 (University : Student) was agreed upon.

the University reserves the right to withhold payment if there is evidence of a student not paying his/her component of the costs; poor treatment adherence; or impropriety.

4. ADMINISTRATION OF THE POLICY AND PROGRAMME

To facilitate effective and efficient execution of this document, each of the following role players have been assigned responsibilities as indicated:

4.1 **University of Natal AIDS Task Force** is responsible for:

4.1.1 Identification of the preferred providers.

4.1.2 Documentation of the minimum standards of quality of care.

4.1.3 Determination of the payment policy.

4.1.4 Sourcing funding opportunities.

4.2 **Dean of Students** is responsible for:

4.2.1 Management of the budget.

4.2.2 Appointment / obtainment of additional resources.

4.3 **The AIDS Programme** is responsible for:

4.3.1 Implementation of the Policy and Programme.

4.3.2 Establishment and monitoring of quality assurance mechanisms.

4.3.3 Monitoring of the fulfillment of the staff and students responsibilities in terms of this document as detailed in 4.8 below.

4.4 **Campus Health Clinics** are responsible for:

4.4.1 Maintenance of all confidential documentation.

4.4.2 Provision of Voluntary Counselling and Testing.

4.4.3 Ordering of HIV rapid tests.

4.4.4 Clinical management of HIV+ students, including the monitoring CD4 counts bi-annually.

4.4.5 Provision of male and female condoms.

4.4.6 Ensuring the staff at the Campus Health Clinic are trained the knowledge and skills required for the implementation of this document.

4.5 **Student Counselling Centres** are responsible for:

4.5.1 Individual counselling of HIV+ student.

4.5.2 Assisting the Campus Health Clinics with the provision of pre- and post- test counselling.

4.5.3 Assisting HIVAN with the training of Peer Facilitators and Counsellors.

4.6 **HIVAN** is responsible for:

4.6.1 Facilitation and training of Peer Facilitators and Counsellors.

4.6.2 Development and distribution of the HIV/AIDS-related brochures.

4.6.3 Stocking and maintenance of the male condom dispensers.

4.7 **University staff and students** are responsible for:

4.7.1 Attendance and follow-up at the Campus Health Clinics and / or preferred providers.

4.7.2 Adherence to treatment.

4.7.3 Payment of proportional costs incurred as a result of treatment at the preferred provider.

4.7.4 Payment of all costs incurred as a result of hospitalization.

4.7.5 Familiarity with this document.

4.8 **Preferred providers** are responsible for:

4.8.1 Provision of specialized medical care to HIV+ students referred by the Campus Health Clinics.

4.8.2 Clinical management of students in accordance with the minimum standards of care stipulated by the University of Natal.

4.8.3 Obtaining payment for costs incurred.

4.8.4 Collaboration with the Campus Health Clinics.