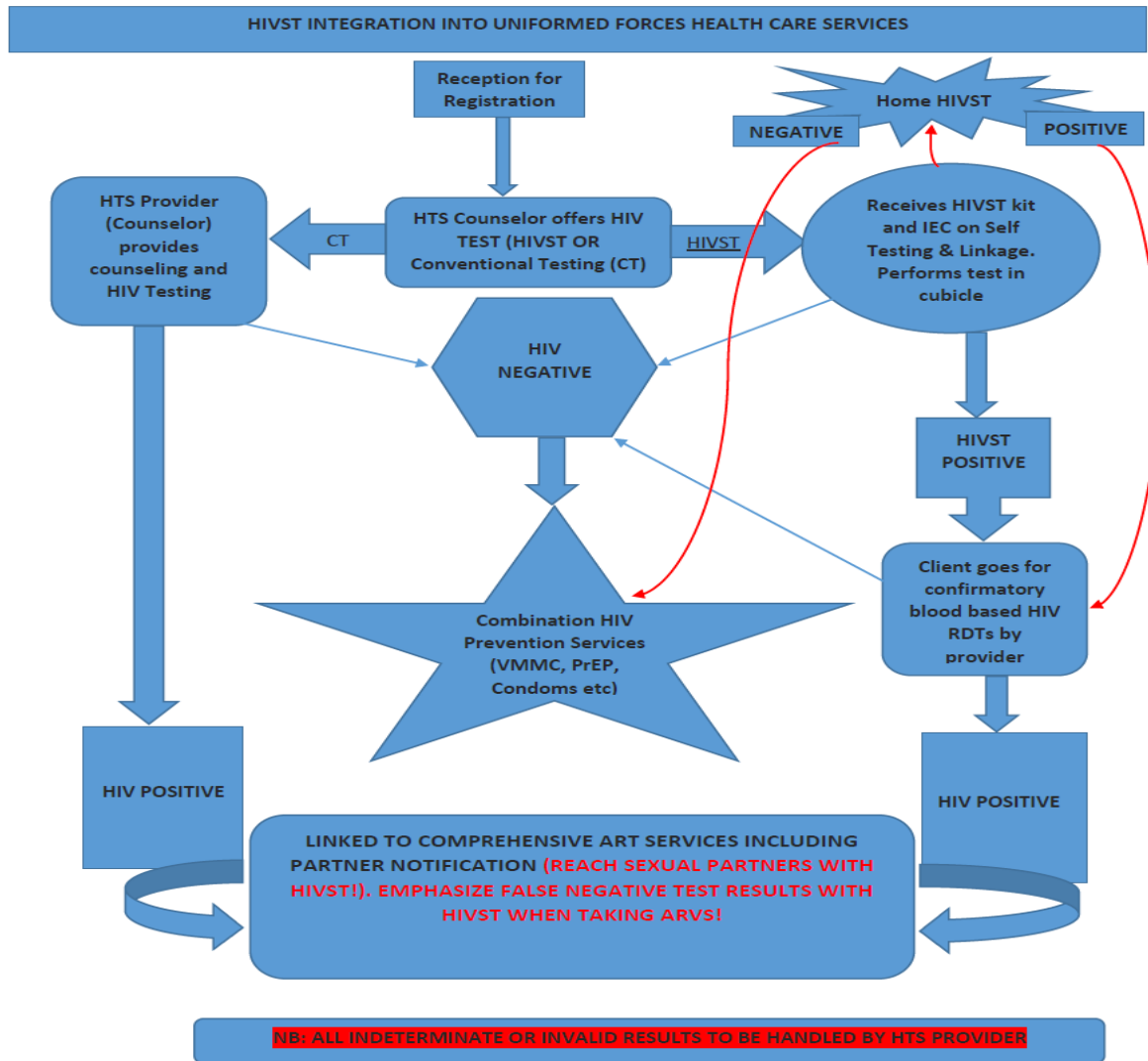


SOP FOR DISTRIBUTION MODELS IN LESOTHO

1. Workplace distribution at uniformed forces

Figure 1: Integration of HIVST at Military Health Facilities.



HTS providers working in the military health facilities will be trained on HIVST prior to distribution. A target of 40 providers will be trained on HIVST per national training curriculum.

Distribution Points

Uniformed Forces Health Facilities (Thomas Wellness Centre, Makoanyane Military Hospital and AHF facility (for LMPS)

The clients will be offered option to self-test or to receive provider delivered HIV Testing (PDHTS). The HTS provider collects client data based on the HIVST register.

Clients who opt for self- testing will have the choice of testing on site or taking the kit away for testing at their convenience. Clients will be encouraged to test at facility where possible to maximize review of test result with health care provider. Clients who choose to self-test on-site will be given a self-test package and access to room where they can self-test in private. The self-test package will consist of the kit and testing instructions in English and Sesotho.

Clients are encouraged to discuss the result with an HTS provider after self – testing within the facility. If the result is positive, the client is offered confirmatory HIV Testing by the provider. If confirmatory results are positive, then client is referred for on-going HIV care & treatment. All confirmed clients living with HIV will be offered HIV self-test kit for secondary distribution to their sexual partner(s) or home visit for index HIV testing.

If HIV self-test is negative, the client is counselled on HIV prevention and offered preventive methods including VMMC for males, PrEP if eligible according to guidelines and consistent & correct condom use. The client with a negative HIV status will also be counselled on need for subsequent repeat testing according to risk profile outlined in the national guidelines.

Clients choosing to self-test off site

Clients choosing to test off-site will be given the self-test package and will be shown the instruction video and written step by step guide on how to perform an HIV self-test. All clients who opt for out of facility HIV self-testing will be provided with counselling on the importance of linking to a health facility after taking the test. Clients who test positive out of facilities will be encouraged to link to health care facilities of their choice, for confirmatory provider delivered HIV testing and possible enrolment into on-going care. Clients who test negative by self-test out of facility are encouraged to present at health facilities for HIV prevention services as applicable.

Clients who opt to test out of the facility will be offered telephonic follow-up by the HTS provider to find out the outcome of the test. At the time of collecting the self-test kit, participants will be asked to think about the date and time they are likely to self-test. Once they decided on date they want to test, they will be provided with a client held appointment card that serves as a reminder to the client. An appointment date for the facility visit after the test will also be entered on the card.

Clients will be encouraged to return used kits when they follow at the facility for services outlined above. The returned are only used to assess use of distributed kits.

Clients who self-test out of facilities will be followed with a phone call randomly (systematic random sampling, taking every third client served) to check use of the test and linkage to appropriate services. Calls to clients who opt to test at home will be made within a month of collecting the kit. This telephonic follow-up will be implemented for the first six months of implementation and then reviewed. Clients will also be asked to report if they visited a health facility after taking an HIV self-test for services outlined above.

Peer Distribution of HIVST among uniformed forces

Thirty peer distributors will be trained to distribute HIVST kits in military bases. HIVST kits will be given to peer distributors together with HIVST registers and relevant IEC material for provision to members of the Lesotho Defence Force stationed at military based in the different districts of Lesotho.

HIV Self-Testing Promotion and Communication

Advocacy and communication strategies will be used to reach potential HIVST clients. Banners, printed IEC materials and electronic media will be used to reach clients with HIVST messages.