

## **INTERPRETATION OF SIMPLE/RAPID HIV TESTS: IMPROVING TESTING ACCURACY**

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**Objectives:** The increased use of Simple/rapid (S/R) HIV testing at non-laboratory testing facilities has necessitated the need for training and close monitoring of performance through quality assurance programs to be introduced. Ensuring the accuracy of interpretation of S/R HIV tests is an important part of maintaining testing accuracy. We propose a workshop aimed at improving the accuracy of interpretation and suggest the use of a novel assessment method.

**Methodology:** The workshop curriculum will encompass the availability and performance of S/R HIV tests. A novel method that utilizes photographed S/R HIV test results to assess the accuracy of interpretation will be described. Quality systems around S/R testing will also be covered. Problem-based learning scenarios, feedback and a question and answer session will conclude the workshop.

**Results:** Participants should understand the strengths and weaknesses of testing based on the use of S/R HIV tests. Their ability to accurately interpret the tests and critically assess problems will be enhanced.

**Conclusion:** This workshop will develop participants' ability to understand the value of testing programs using S/R tests, therefore providing participants with a valuable tool to monitor the performance of non-laboratory based testing and operators in both urban and rural areas.