# Provider initiated HIV testing and counseling among TB patients and suspects

**Background**

- High TB burden in Malawi
  - 27,000 patients register annually
- In December 2006, a TB/HIV integrated management centre was opened at Bwaila District Hospital – Martin Preuss Centre (MPC)
- Among other services, the centre offers provider initiated HIV testing and counselling (PITC) among TB patients/suspects
- PITC is internationally recommended; its impact on uptake of HIV testing services is not exhaustively described

**Objective**

- To describe the extent to which PITC enhanced uptake of HIV testing services among TB patients/suspects

**Methods**

- Retrospective cohort study using routine program data December 2006 and June 2010 at MPC
- MPC registers 300 TB patients and 345 suspects monthly
- All TB patients/suspects went for HIV testing and counseling within the TB registry following ‘opt-out’ strategy
- HIV test results were documented in TB registers
- Data was extracted from the TB registers for all patients and suspects
- Descriptive analysis was used to describe the programme

**Results**

**December 2006 and October 2009**

**Among TB patients**

- 7,455 patients were diagnosed with TB
- 6,857 (92%) had HIV status ascertained
  - 5,247 (77%) were HIV positive
  - 1,491 (22%) already knew their HIV status
- The annual ascertainment of HIV status in TB patients increased from 52% in 2007 to 94% in 2009
- Of those HIV positive, 2,592 (69%) started on ART at MPC

**Among TB suspects**

- 6,331 TB suspects were registered
- 4,163 (65%) had HIV status ascertained
  - 2,246 (54%) were HIV positive

**Figure 1: TB suspect collecting sputum result**

**Conclusions and recommendation**

- The study has demonstrated that PITC:
  - Is acceptable and feasible for TB patients and suspects
  - Leads to high ascertainment of HIV status among TB patients
- The high proportion of TB patients/suspects tested positive underscores the need to implement PITC
- Expansion of PITC to other clinical settings will contribute to effective scale up of HIV prevention, treatment and care