ANNEXURE 1: UNIFIED TESTING ALGORITHM FOR HIV-1 EXPOSED INFANTS AND CHILDREN <18 MONTHS

1. Start cotrimoxazole if not already started
2. Assess and encourage breast feeding if replacement feeding not started
3. Rapid antibody test not recommended
4. If baby is <6 weeks- HIV-1 DNA PCR not recommended
5. 6 weeks and above is the optimal age for a routine first HIV-1 DNA PCR test

INFANT IS HIV-1 INFECTED

INFANT IS HIV-1 UNINFECTED

HIV-1 DNA detected

HIV-1 DNA not detected

<6 months old and born to HIV positive mother

6 months old or more and born to HIV positive mother

HIV-1 DNA detected

HIV-1 DNA not detected

Follow Advisory 1

Follow Advisory 2

Follow Advisory 3

Test for HIV Antibody for definitive diagnosis using 3 Serological tests at 18 months of age

Advisory 2
- Start cotrimoxazole.
- Manage OI, if any.
- Start ARV therapy as per national protocol.
- If breastfed, continue breastfeeding as long as possible. Avoid mixed feeding.

Advisory 3
- Infant is probably not infected, but is at risk.
  - Repeat HIV-1 DNA PCR by DBS test at 6 months, 6 weeks after last breast milk feeding OR if the child develops symptoms of HIV infection.
  - Continue cotrimoxazole until definitely negative.
  - Discourage weaning too early – use local guidelines and ensure AFAS criteria are met before weaning.
  - 6 months is often a good time to discuss possibility of weaning.

Universal Advisory
1. CPT to be initiated for all HIV exposed babies from 6 weeks of age and continued until proven HIV negative by final confirmatory antibody test at age 18 months or later. All three antibody tests should be performed regardless of any interim HIV test results (DNA PCR or Antibody) and irrespective of their BF status. In case the baby is found to be HIV infected by final confirmatory diagnosis, CPT should be continued until 5 years age.
2. If the child has been started on exclusive replacement feeding, continue the same for 6 months. Avoid mixed feeding as far as possible.
3. In children (<18 months) with signs and symptoms of HIV whose exposure status is unknown, perform rapid test for HIV antibodies. If negative, label child as uninfected. If positive, follow the algorithm above. Attempt to determine the HIV infection status of the parents to determine if the child is HIV-exposed; thereafter, follow the algorithm to determine the infection status in the child.
4. In rare cases of Sero Discordance, i.e., the infant tests negative on the Antibody test after having been confirmed positive by DNA PC, contact NACO (Labs Service Division, or Care, Support, Treatment Division)

Follow Advisory 2

Infant is HIV-1 infected

Infant is HIV-1 uninfected

X

Follow Advisory 1

Advisory 1
- Start cotrimoxazole.
- Assess and encourage breast feeding if replacement feeding not started

Follow Advisory 1

HIV-1 DNA detected

HIV-1 DNA not detected

Test for HIV Antibody for definitive diagnosis using 3 Serological tests at 18 months of age

Refer to ART centre

Lab will request for fresh DBS from ICTC centre if result is discordant and rely on the second Confirmatory DBS test result

Test for HIV Antibody for definitive diagnosis using 3 Serological tests at 18 months of age

Follow Advisory 2

Follow Advisory 3

HIV-1 DNA detected

HIV-1 DNA not detected

Lab will request for fresh DBS from ICTC centre if result is discordant and rely on the second Confirmatory DBS test result

Antibody (3 test algorithm) positive

Send Dried Blood Spot (DBS) of child for HIV-1 DNA PCR

Antibody (3 test algorithm) negative – does not need HIV-1 DNA PCR

X

Infant is HIV-1 uninfected

Breasted in the 6 weeks before test

Not breastfed in the 6 weeks before test

Avoid putting baby to breast

Follow Advisory 2

Follow Advisory 1

Follow Advisory 1

Follow Advisory 1

Follow Advisory 1

Follow Advisory 1

Follow Advisory 1

Follow Advisory 1

Follow Advisory 1

Follow Advisory 1
Office Memorandum

Subject: Unified Testing Algorithm for Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) of HIV-1 exposed infants and children less than 18 months: 2015

The EID Testing algorithm has been modified. The salient features are:

1. Unified, single algorithm by merging of algorithm A and algorithm B

2. Whole Blood (WB) confirmatory testing is replaced with a second Dried Blood Spot (DBS) as confirmatory testing. The second DBS will be collected at ICTC after the first DBS is reported as reactive for HIV-1 by Regional Referral Laboratories.

3. All exposed babies who enter the EID algorithm, whether detected HIV positive or negative by molecular tests, will undergo the ‘gold standard’ antibody test at 18 months of age as per National Algorithm.

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Encl: New EID Algorithm 2015
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