

24. PREVENTION OF MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV INTERVENTION

24.1 Overview of PMTCT interventions

Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV is one of the key HIV prevention strategies in Zimbabwe's national response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV is the most significant source of HIV infection in children below the age of 15 years. Over 90% of HIV infection in infants and children is due to PMTCT.

About 30 to 35% of pregnant women are HIV positive. Without any PMTCT intervention, about a third of the HIV infected women will pass the virus to their babies. It is estimated that about 20% of the infected babies become infected during pregnancy, 60% during labour and delivery, and 20% after birth through breast-feeding. Most infections therefore occur during labour and delivery.

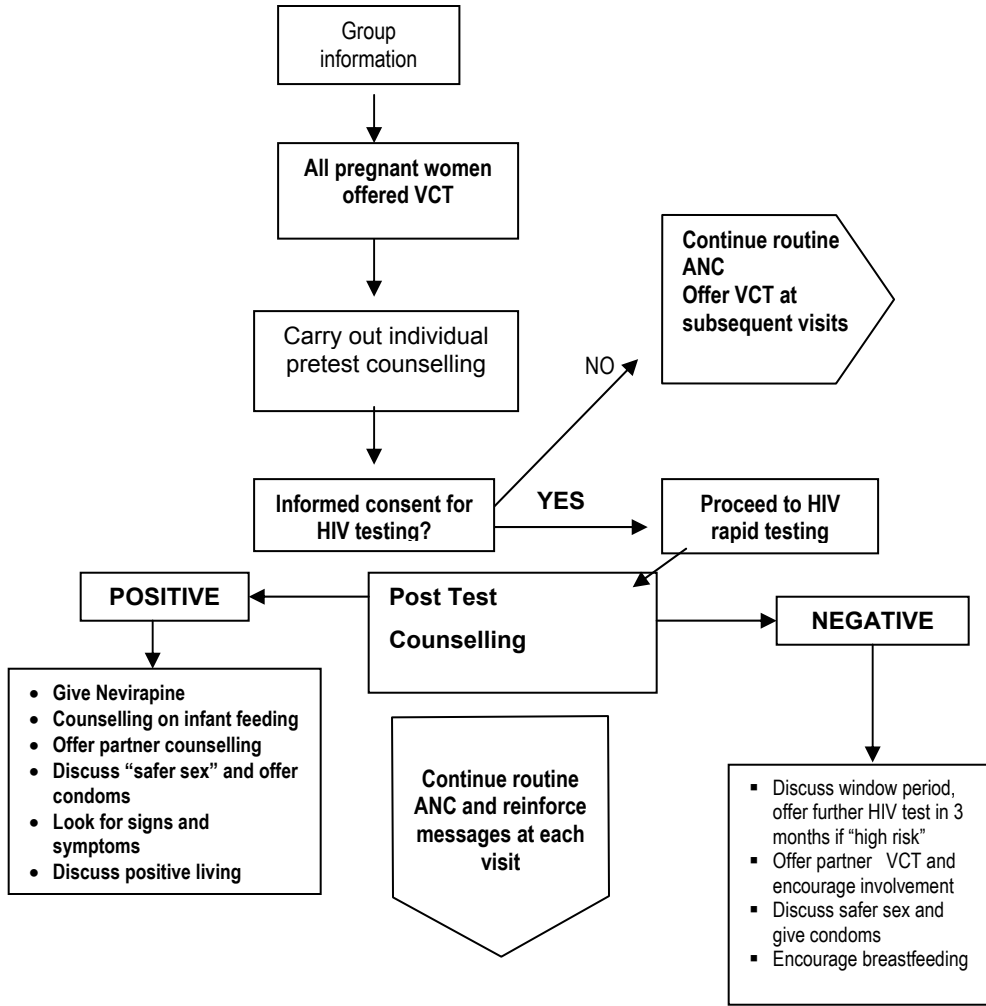
The goal of Zimbabwe PMTCT is to reduce PMTCT of HIV infection, thereby leading to reduction of infant morbidity and mortality.

The Four Main Strategies for PMTCT in Zimbabwe are:

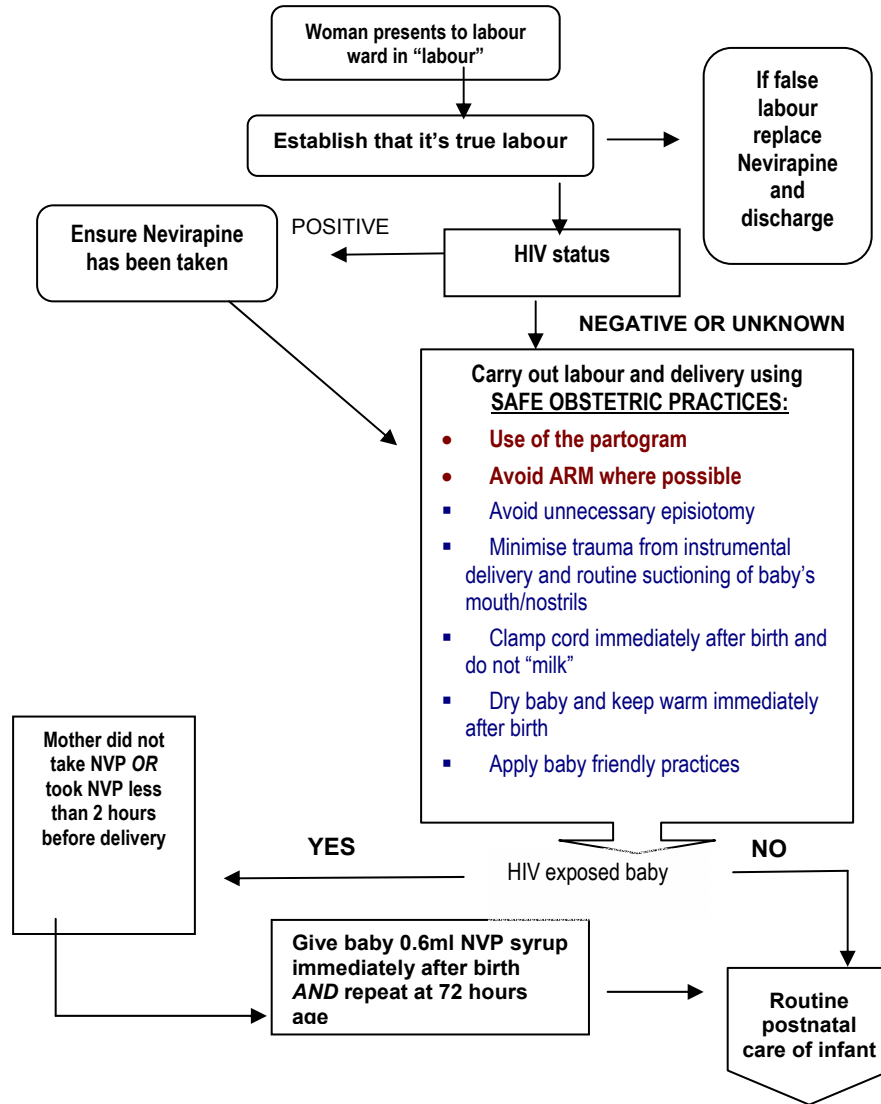
- Primary prevention of HIV infection in Women of childbearing age and their partners.
- Prevention of transmission of HIV to the infant during pregnancy and breastfeeding
- Prevention of unwanted pregnancies in HIV infected women.
- Care and Psychosocial support to HIV infected women and their families

PMTCT practices need to be carried out during the antenatal period, labour and delivery and post-natal period including after hospital / clinic discharge.

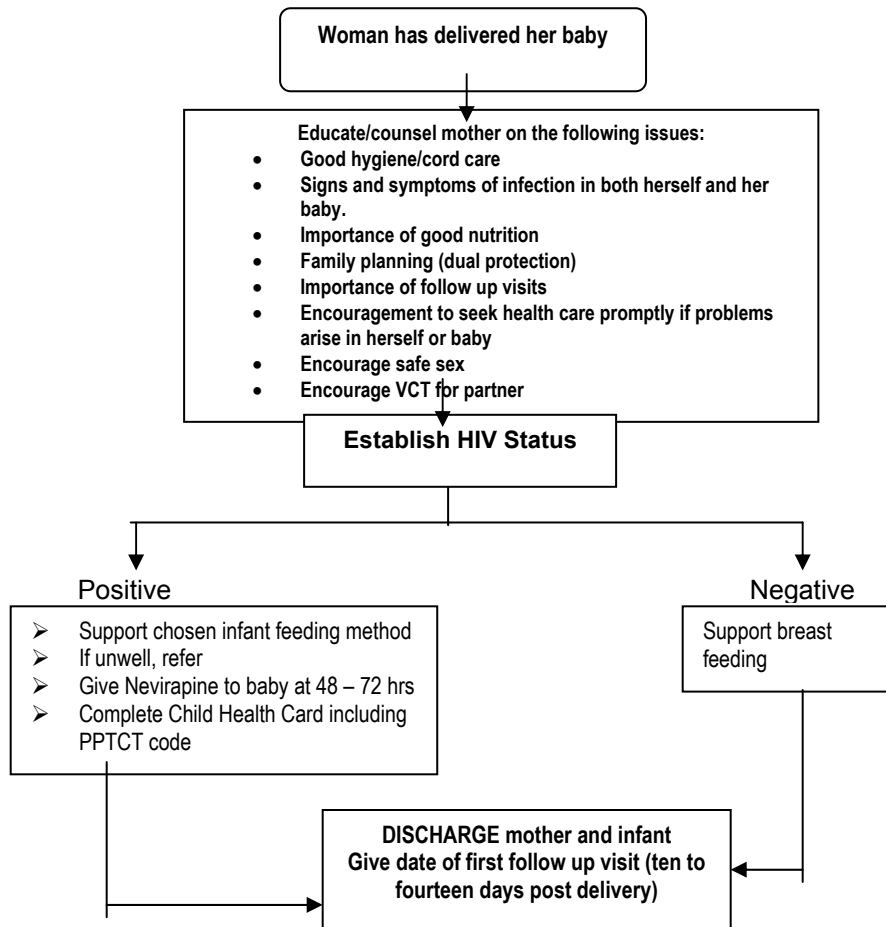
24.2 Summary of antenatal care practices



24.3 Summary of practices during labour and delivery



24.4 Summary of post natal practices



24.5 Summary of long term follow up & care

