

IUSTI NEWSLETTER

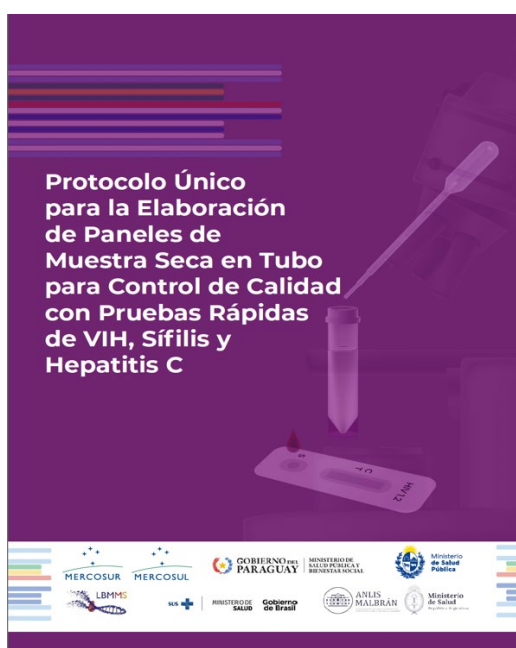
IUSTI Latin America

The IUSTI Latin America page has been updated to feature publications, courses on STIs in the region, and a link to the Brazilian Journal for STIs. It now includes the Brazilian STI guidelines in Portuguese, Spanish, and English. Argentine experts are reviewing treatment guidelines, which will be added when ready.

Mercosur:

External Quality Assessment for Rapid Diagnostic Testing (EQA-RDT) – Mercosur collaboration

The Mercosur Intergovernmental HIV/Aids Commission (CIVIH) has organized various activities to enhance the response to HIV, AIDS, viral hepatitis, and STIs. Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay identified an opportunity to improve the quality of diagnostic tests for syphilis, HIV, and HCV, focusing on developing panels to evaluate rapid diagnostic testing (RDT) using the dry tube specimens (DTS) methodology. Despite the high performance of RDTs, inaccuracies can occur if procedures are not performed correctly, underscoring the need for a unified methodology to ensure RDT quality in the region. Argentina and Brazil led the process of implementing a quality control methodology for rapid diagnostic testing (RDT) in Paraguay and Uruguay. Argentina conducts annual EQA-RDT rounds in 23 health units, supported by INEI/ANLIS, while Brazil distributes DTS panels to over 3,000 healthcare professionals, with support from the Ministry of Health since 2011. To standardize quality control in Mercosur countries, a unified protocol for preparing DTS panels for HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis C tests was developed. Technical visits were also made to help Paraguay and Uruguay produce their first EQA-RDT panels for these diseases. This collaborative effort highlighted the need for a unified information system to document EQA-RDT results and standardize the production of panels for other diagnostic tests. It aimed to facilitate sharing evidence to define diagnostic and monitoring algorithms for STIs in Mercosur countries.



Source: Brazilian Ministry of Health (Public)

Argentina

Annual multidisciplinary course on infections in gynecology and obstetrics in partnership with the Argentine Association for the Study of Infections in Gynecology and Obstetrics and STI Control (ASAIGO-ITS). The course has 8 modules to be taught on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Students must have 80% attendance. A final exam will be taken after completion. Information and registration at cursoanualasaigoits@gmail.com



CURSO PRESENCIAL ANUAL

MULTIDISCIPLINARIO DE INFECCIONES EN GINECOLOGIA Y OBSTETRICIA

Directores:
Dr. Miguel Tili
Dr. Adrian Orsini

Coordinadores:
Dr. Fernando Novick
Dra. Ana Laura Arias

Coordinadoras de módulo:
Dra. Graciela Sánchez,
Dra. Florencia Verdi,
Dr. Martín Vecchini

Inicio: 17 de abril de 2024

Modalidad:
8 módulos a dictarse el 3º miércoles de cada mes

Organiza:
Asociación Argentina para el Estudio de Infecciones en Ginecología y Obstetricia y Control de ITS (ASAIGO-ITS)

Reglamento:
Los alumnos deberán contar con el 80% de asistencia.
Se tomará examen final posterior a su finalización.

17 a 21 hs

USAL
Facultad de Medicina

Informes e inscripción: cursoanualasaigoits@gmail.com

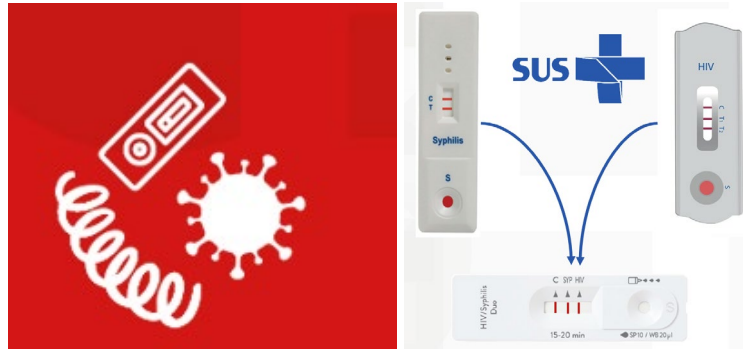


Source: ASAIGO (Public)

Brazil

Implementation of dual HIV/syphilis rapid diagnostic tests in Prenatal Services in Brazil

In June 2024, following WHO recommendations, the Brazilian Ministry of Health began distributing dual HIV/syphilis rapid diagnostic tests. These 4 million tests, designed to detect both infections simultaneously, are primarily for testing pregnant women to prevent vertical transmission. The goal is to increase timely syphilis testing, which is often delayed despite the availability of single rapid tests for HIV and syphilis in Brazil's health services. Brazil's strategy for implementation included conducting pilot studies in various regions, such as the Amazon (Soares et al., 2023 - doi: 10.3390/diagnostics13040810), publishing guidance materials with testing flowcharts and informative documents, hosting webinars, and offering an online course on how to perform the test (<https://campusvirtual.fiocruz.br/gestordecursos/hotsite/utrdiag>).



Source: Brazilian Ministry of Health (Public)

Brazilian subnational certification for elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis, Hepatitis B and/or Chagas disease

The subnational certification of the Elimination of Mother-to-child Transmission (MTCT) in Brazil is a Ministry of Health strategy aligned with regional (Pan American Health Organization - PAHO) and global (World Health Organization - WHO) initiatives. A National Guideline for the certification process have been developed, incorporating PAHO and WHO strategies tailored to Brazilian conditions. This guideline aims to assist all Brazilian states and municipalities with over 100,000 inhabitants in achieving certification. The process involves collaboration among federal, state, and municipal levels of government, scientific societies such as IUSTI, civil society, and engaged communities, highlighting strong intersectoral governance. By the end of 2023, the guideline was updated to include impact and process targets for eliminating or reaching the tiers toward the elimination of hepatitis B and Chagas disease, alongside HIV and syphilis. Currently, 110 municipalities and 4 states in Brazil have achieved certification for eliminating or reaching milestones in the path to eliminating MTCT of syphilis and/or HIV, encompassing over 80 million inhabitants in these certified areas. In 2024, it is projected that more municipalities and states will obtain certification for eliminating MTCT of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B, reinforcing efforts from local to national levels.



Source: Brazilian Ministry of Health (Public)