

# Contraception and sexually transmitted infections seminar

**Date:** 4 May 2012 **Time:** 12.30–1pm Lunch & Networking  
**Seminar starts** 1pm–4.30pm Seminar starts  
**Venue** Terrence Higgins Trust, 314 – 320 Gray's Inn Road , London, WC1X 8DP

## Purpose

This seminar will explore the relationship between contraception use and exposure to sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV.

## Brief

A recent report suggested that hormonal contraceptives increased the risk of HIV infection among women in Africa. A recent report in Croydon, south London, highlighted the number of repeat abortions in the borough. African women received the highest number of terminations, with 43 per cent not using any form of contraception. ONS (Office for National Statistics) reports show that teenage girls are accessing termination services more frequently.

While there is a government strategy to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies, there appears to be a disconnect between STI prevention messages – a perception that termination is a form of contraception for some women. For sexual health professionals, this demonstrates high risk sexual behaviour (no condom usage) at a time when STI infections are on the increase. Perhaps it also demonstrates a need for better integration of services.

## Issues to be explored during the seminar

- What are the common contraception methods used by African women?
- Are these terminations a planned or responsive approach to contraception?
- What issues might different contraception methods raise when it comes to STI prevention?
- What are the best ways to prevent STIs while using different types of contraception?
- How can service providers best support African women to make informed choices about contraception and STI prevention?
- As HP professionals, do we focus too closely on HIV as opposed to the other STIs when dealing with the African community?
- Does this affect how messages are received (i.e. risk assessment)?

**Target Audience:** Health professionals working in sexual and reproductive health care with the African Community in London.

## Background reading

[WHO clarifies guidance on hormonal contraceptives](#)

[Issue overview AVAC](#)

[Experiencing terminations in Croydon 2011](#)

**Map** [Map to our office](#)

## Contraception and sexually transmitted infections seminar

### Speakers:

#### **Dr Melvina Woode Owusu – Health Protection Agency**

Melvina is an HIV and sexually transmitted infections epidemiology scientist at the Health Protection Agency (HPA). She currently works on various projects relating to HIV and AIDS reporting and surveillance. Her particular research interests are in sexual health promotion, HIV testing, and access to services for the African community, young people and people involved in the commercial sex industry. Before joining the HPA, Melvina worked in the European urban health field (EURO-URHIS 2) where she explored young people's sexual and reproductive health and methods for engaging hard-to-reach groups in survey-based research. Melvina completed her PhD in epidemiology and public health at the University of Manchester, in which she explored male clients' of female sex workers' roles in the prevention and transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and developed a conceptual model of dyadic condom decision making in commercial sex.

#### **Dr Linda McDonald – Medical Research Council**

Linda has worked in the HIV sector since 1985. She has fond memories of her time at Scottish AIDS Monitor distributing condoms and being hounded out of small Scottish villages as they did not want 'your sort of people' corrupting the masses! Upon completing her nursing qualifications she worked for Milestone House, the first HIV hospice in Edinburgh. She later moved to London and started working at Central Middlesex Hospital as an HIV nurse consultant, then Terrence Higgins Trust as a Senior Practice Development Nurse. Linda is currently working for the Medical Research Council as a Senior Research Nurse on a paediatric HIV study called Adolescents and Adults Living with Perinatal HIV (AALPHI). Linda has seen many improvements in the treatment and care of people living with HIV over the years. However, she feels we still have a long way to go to challenge stigma and discrimination.

#### **Thandi Haruperi – restorEgo**

Thandi believes that we all have the ability to learn and grow from our experiences no matter how challenging and seemingly insurmountable. Her focus, therefore, is on promoting empowerment. This is the principal on which she founded restorEgo, a training and development consultancy addressing various issues around wellbeing, inclusion and development. Thandi also works to challenge HIV related stigma and discrimination to help herself and others to become more visible beyond their communities.

#### **Fatima Koromo – Croydon Healthwatch Pathfinder**

Fatima is a community champion in Croydon. She sits on the local Healthwatch Pathfinder steering committee and is Chair of its Sexual Health and Maternity task group. She is currently delivering a food bank project and promoting an salutogenetic approach to reducing health inequalities in BME communities.

## Contraception and sexually transmitted infections seminar

12:15 – 12:30	Registration
12:30 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 13:05	Welcome & overview - Melvina Woode Owusu Health Protection Agency
13:05 – 13:20	The 'condom use' message – issues to consider and lessons learned Melvina Woode Owusu
13:20 – 13:35	Contraception choices & barriers – Linda McDonald Medical Research Council
13:35 – 14:45	Raising awareness of risk & promoting condom usage - Thandi Haruperi RestorEgo
14:45 – 15:00	Repeat terminations overview - Fatima Koroma Croydon Healthwatch Pathfinder
15:00 – 15:30	Q & A
15:30 – 15:40	Tea break
15:40 – 16:00	Group work key issues for the community
16:00 – 16:15	Group feedback
16:15 – 16:30	Next steps & close
16:30 – 17:00	Evaluation

**Please complete the following contact information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return this form to Marcy Madzikanda:  
by email: [marcy.madzikanda@tht.org.uk](mailto:marcy.madzikanda@tht.org.uk)  
by fax: 020 7812 1799

**Confirmation of your place will be emailed to you on receipt of your booking form.**  
**Numbers are limited.**

