HIV Curriculum
For the Health Professional

BIPAI
Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative
This is the fourth edition of the HIV Curriculum for the Health Professional, a book written and produced by the Baylor College of Medicine International Pediatric AIDS Initiative in collaboration with international partners. The Baylor College of Medicine International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI) is a multidisciplinary team of health professionals based at the Baylor College of Medicine. Prior to launching this curriculum project in 1999, the BIPAI team had experience with health-professional education in developing-country settings such as Romania, Mexico, and Panama. The idea of creating a comprehensive curriculum on HIV/AIDS for nurses was a direct result of lessons learned from those early experiences. In order to develop a curriculum that would be appropriate for use in southern Africa, we conducted a needs assessment in the region and relied heavily on our African partners for content and feedback. The curriculum that follows is the product of years of close collaboration between BIPAI and our African colleagues.

The first edition of this book was titled the HIV Nursing Curriculum. Nurses have been the front-line medical professionals responding to the pandemic, providing hands-on care to patients and comfort to families on a daily basis. It is critical that nurses be honored, respected, and valued for their professional and personal contributions to people living with HIV/AIDS. It is also critical that they be educated about the disease and empowered to serve as advocates for their patients and themselves. To this end, the first edition of this HIV training curriculum was written specifically for nurses. However, we soon learned that health professionals of all kinds were seeking and benefiting from the information in the “HIV Nursing Curriculum”. The subsequent three editions were written with the intent of providing nurses, physicians, social workers, counselors, home-care workers, and students with the information they need to understand HIV and to offer the highest standard of compassionate care for HIV-infected patients. This revised, fourth edition of the HIV Curriculum for the Health Professional updates these tools with the latest research and practice insights presented for immediate, effective use in the field.

This curriculum reflects our expertise and experience in pediatrics, but it is designed to improve the care of patients of all ages. Nearly 50,000 copies of the first three editions of this publication have been distributed in 51 countries since the first edition became available in 2001. The curriculum has evolved with each edition; we hope it is becoming ever more practical, user-friendly, and comprehensive.

This HIV Curriculum for the Health Professional was made possible by start-up funding from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company’s SECURE THE FUTURE™ initiative. Working in partnership with the African nations of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland, SECURE THE FUTURE™ is designed to find solutions for the management of HIV/AIDS in women and children and to provide resources to improve community education and patient support. The largest commitment of its kind ever made, the Bristol-Myers Squibb SECURE THE FUTURE™ program is intended to complement the broader efforts of governments to identify relevant and sustainable responses to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Additional sponsorship for development, printing, and distribution of this edition of the HIV Curriculum for the Health Professional was provided by the Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health (NIH/FIC), the President’s...

One important difference between the fourth edition HIV Curriculum for the Health Professional and the versions that preceded it is that the fourth edition will not be printed and distributed centrally from the BIPAI headquarters in Houston, Texas, USA. This decision was not taken lightly, as we recognize that many end-users (health professionals in the field) will not have ready broadband access to the material at the bedside where it might be most useful to them. We have made the fourth edition available in print-ready format online for local production, and we encourage our partner organizations and other NGOs to print as needed. The reasons for decentralizing curriculum production are many, and include:

- More environmentally friendly (not using jet fuel to ship heavy books across the world)
- Provides work and revenue to local businesses (printing companies)
- Quality standard can be maintained by providing non-editable .pdf
- Programs can control their own inventory of curriculum
- Curriculum can be modified and edited on-line and kept up-to-date more easily than if large central stores are produced
- Resources previously allocated for shipping costs can be devoted to programs to benefit HIV-infected individuals more directly

Acknowledgments

We are indebted to our international cadre of partners, who have shaped each module in this publication. We would not have undertaken the development of a full curriculum on HIV/AIDS without the support and encouragement of our professional partners in Africa. This publication represents a global effort by talented authors and contributors from partner countries the world over.

Special thanks to graphic artist DeeDee Tomkins, who designed this book; to editor Gabe Waggonner, who reviewed and improved each module; and to photographer Smiley N. Pool, who provided many of the images, including the cover photo.

Over the past several years, the education team of the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative has worked intensely in the development and refinement of this material. Friendships have been forged and have deepened as we journeyed together, both literally and figuratively, in the development of this curriculum. We are grateful to all who have made this incredible experience possible.

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