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Exploring among primary care providers, patients and traditional healers their perspectives on barriers and enablers to cervical pre cancerous lesion detection and treatment in primary clinic settings in Soweto

Cervical cancer is highly preventable and can be easily treated if detected at early stages. However, there is a disproportionately high burden of cervical cancer incidence and mortality in low-middle income (LMIC) country settings. Cervical cancer can be prevented or have favourable outcomes if detected early.

Primary Aim: To explore barriers and enablers to implementation of South African Department of Health (SANDoH) cervical cancer early detection and treatment guidelines.

Objective 1: To explore among facility managers, nurses and doctors from 2 community health centres and their feeder primary health care clinics in Greater Soweto, their experiences of barriers and enablers to cervical cancer screening and pre-cancerous lesion treatment among women attending their clinics.

Objective 2: To explore among women routinely attending HIV clinics within these primary health care facilities, their experiences of their own and health sytem barriers and enablers to cervical cancer screening.

Objective 3: To explore among traditional healers in Soweto, opportunities and feasibility for involving them in community cervical cancer screening services.

Findings from this study will provide insights on provider-, patient- and community traditional healers perceived challenges and opportunities associated with detection and diagnosis of pre-and cancerous cervical lesions among the predominantly black women of low socio-economic status at primary healthcare clinics in urban Soweto and Orange Farm.

Research Tasks 2 and 3

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