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Nurses and midwives throughout Africa face dire consequences of HIV/AIDS in their daily lives. Much of Africa's healthcare resources are spent on HIV/AIDS. Worldwide many research reports have been published on HIV/AIDS.

In this edition of the Africa Journal of Nursing and Midwifery, three out of nine articles address issues related to HIV/AIDS. Being HIV positive and pregnant implies carrying a new life whilst trying to cope with one's HIV positive diagnosis. The first article describes the mourning process of HIV-positive women and portrays these South African women's experiences of bereavement. Midwives, working at ante-natal clinics, can support the HIV positive pregnant women in various ways identified in this article.

Diagnostic tests are necessary to determine HIV positive persons' reactions to anti-retroviral therapy (ART) but these tests are expensive, time consuming and not readily available in some African countries. The second article examines the correlation between patients' CD4 cell counts and pharmacy refill records in Namibia. The conclusion is that there was a positive but weak association between pharmacy refill records and CD4 cell counts, implying that pharmacy refill records need to be supplemented by periodic CD4 cell counts (and viral loads where possible) to determine ART patients' responses to their treatment, and by implication also their adherence levels.

Newly diagnosed HIV infected persons' health care seeking behaviours are investigated in rural and urban areas of the North West Province of South Africa. Stigma and health-care workers' attitudes prevented some persons from accessing free healthcare services after being diagnosed HIV positive one year previously.

Adolescent pregnancies pose major social, economic, personal and health challenges to these adolescents, their parents and communities. Similar findings from high school learners in the Gauteng Province of South Africa, female student nurses in the Mpumalanga Province of South Africa and secondary school learners from Thailand are reported in three different articles. A model was developed and implemented in Thailand for reducing the number of adolescent pregnancies. Although some recommendations

might be uniquely applicable to Thailand, healthcare providers could gain new insights by learning about approaches suitable to other parts of the world.

Malaria continues to plague people in Africa and remains responsible for many deaths among children up to five years of age. One article investigates the malaria preventive measures that parents implement, or fail to implement, in Tanzania. Malaria also plays a major role in the burden of endemic diseases in Nigeria, as indicated by another article's reported findings.

Effective nursing education is fundamental for determining the quality of nurses rendering the bulk of health care services in Africa. A problem faced by countries trying to increase their numbers of registered nurses through increasing the number of student nurses, is providing meaningful clinical accompaniment to these larger numbers of student nurses. The last article compares nurse educators' and student nurses' perceptions on various aspects of clinical accompaniment in Botswana.

The authors of articles in this edition share their research findings pertaining to various aspects of HIV/AIDS, adolescent pregnancies, malaria and nursing education challenges from South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Tanzania, Nigeria and Thailand. I trust that every reader's knowledge and insight will be expanded by reading these research reports to the extent that further research will be conducted and reported, hopefully to the ultimate benefit of the healthcare consumers.

I wish to thank all the readers, subscribers, reviewers, authors and editorial board members for support and encouragement received throughout 2009. Based on your sustained involvement, and contributions, the Africa Journal of Nursing and Midwifery can continue to grow from strength to strength.

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Executive Editor