## KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTION REGARDING HIV COUNSELING AND TESTING SERVICE FOR PMCT AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN ATTENDING ANTENATAL CLINIC AT CENTRAL WOMEN HOSPITAL, YANGON

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## **ABSTRACT**

In Myanmar, HIV sero prevalence among pregnant women in ANC. setting is 0.9% and children can get infection from their mothers. And, the key factor for successful prevention of mother to child transmission is HIV counseling and testing for pregnant women. This cross sectional descriptive study was conducted from last week of October to second week of November 2013, to assess the knowledge and perception regarding HIV counseling and testing services for PMCT among pregnant women attending antenatal clinic at Central Women Hospital. A total of 156 pregnant women who were attending ANC of CWH for the first visit were included in the study. Respondents were recruited through consecutive sampling method and face to face interviews were carried out using pre-tested structured questionnaires. About half of the respondents were within 25 to 34 years age group and had the education status of primary school passed. Majority of the respondents got PMCT related knowledge from health care provider. Nearly all respondents had heard about HIV infection that can be transmitted from one person to another. But, not all respondents awarded of PMCT services. Most of the respondents knew the mode of transmission and effective HIV/AIDS prevention methods. Half of the respondents had above mean level of knowledge on HIV/AIDS. Majority of the AN attendees had correct knowledge that HIV can be transmitted from mother to child. About one third knew the transmission occurred during labor. Small percentage of respondents had above mean level of knowledge on PMCT .Among respondents, about half did not know the magnitude of transmission risk from mother to baby. Although small percentage of respondents had above mean level of knowledge on PMCT, majority had positive perception regarding PMCT counseling and testing services.