

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN VENEREOLOGY EXAMINATION
AUGUST 2020

PAPER I
(ESSAY TYPE QUESTIONS)

Date: 10th August 2020

Time: 1.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Answer all five (05) questions.

Each question to be answered in a separate book.

1. A 35-year-old unmarried asymptomatic male newly diagnosed with HIV infection is registered at the HIV clinic, Colombo. His past medical history is uneventful and other STIs are excluded.
 - 1.1. State the investigations you would arrange for this patient giving reasons. (30 marks)
 - 1.2. His CD₄ count is 750 cells/ μ l, viral load is 86,000 copies/ml and other investigations are normal. Select the most suitable antiretroviral (ARV) regimen for this patient giving reasons. (30 marks)
 - 1.3. Outline the areas you would cover in adherence counselling while offering the ARV regimen. (40 marks)
2. National Communication Strategy (NCS) is developed by National STD/AIDS Control Programme (NSACP) to maintain the low HIV prevalence of the country and ending AIDS by 2025.
 - 2.1. Outline five (5) guiding principles of the National Communication Strategy. (30 marks)
 - 2.2. Describe five (5) strategic objectives on HIV/STD prevention in NCS. (70 marks)

3. A 28-year-old female who is married for four (4) months presents to STD clinic along with her husband. She complains of painful vulval ulcers for three (3) days and is diagnosed as having genital herpes infection. She has no history of similar episodes. She has had sexual exposures only with the marital partner who is asymptomatic and has no history of genital ulcers. The couple is anxious and worried about the situation.
- 3.1. Describe important areas you would consider in counselling this couple. (50 marks)
- 3.2. This patient attends the clinic three (3) months later complaining of recurrent itching and soreness of vulva. How would you manage her? (50 marks)
4. Currently, most of the HIV prevention programmes for key populations are supported by the Global Fund and carried out by non-governmental organizations. However, during next few years these programmes will be taken over by the district STD clinics using government funds.
- 4.1. Describe the planned HIV prevention programmes including the prevention package for men who have sex with men (MSM) by district STD clinics. (55 marks)
- 4.2. Write three (3) monitoring and evaluation (M&E) indicators to measure the HIV prevention programme for MSM by giving the numerator and denominator for each indicator. (45 marks)
- 5.
- 5.1. Outline the rationale for developing study methods prior to data collection in research. (15 marks)
- 5.2. A research study is planned to be conducted in Hubei, China to estimate the disease transmission rate within 14 days of exposure among contacts of COVID-19 patients. The researcher plans to recruit the sample from the largest quarantine centre in Hubei, China.
- 5.2.1. Name the most suitable study design, giving reasons for your selection. (15 marks)
- 5.2.2. State the formula for two measures of disease frequency that should be calculated in this study. (15 marks)
- 5.2.3. Outline the precautions that need to be taken to ensure the validity of data collected in this study. (25 marks)
- 5.3. In another study, it was observed that 30 out of 120 patients dying of COVID-19 had diabetes as a comorbidity. In comparison, 10% of deaths in the general population had diabetes as a comorbidity. Interpret these results statistically. (30 marks)