INPLASY

Integration Models for Delivering COVID-19 Vaccines through HIV Services in Low-and Middle-Income Countries: A Scoping Review Protocol

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective To identify and describe models for delivering COVID-19 vaccines through HIV care services in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Rationale To effectively tackle vaccine distribution for people living with HIV and enhance health outcomes, identifying and mapping the existing models used to deliver vaccines to this population is essential. Understanding these methods can help policymakers and healthcare providers design better research and implementation strategies. Furthermore, gaining a deeper insight into these models may offer helpful guidance on how future vaccine delivery and its integration into primary healthcare and vaccination programs can be improved, particularly in LMICs. This scoping review explored existing COVID-19 vaccine integration models in LMICs focusing on approaches relevant to PLHIV.

Condition being studied COVID-19; HIV.

METHODS

Search strategy Database Query Number Query #4 #1 AND #2 AND #3
EMBASE Search Strategy #3 (((((((('low-income countr*' OR 'middle-income countr*' OR 'developing countr*' OR 'low-resource countr*' OR 'resource-poor countr*' OR 'underdeveloped countr*' OR 'less developed countr*' OR 'global south' OR 'sub-saharan africa'/exp OR 'sub-saharan africa' OR 'latin america'/exp OR 'latin america' OR 'south asia'/exp OR 'south asia' OR 'africa'/exp OR 'africa' OR 'southeast asia'/exp OR 'southeast asia' OR 'central america'/exp OR 'central america' OR 'eastern europe'/exp OR 'eastern europe' OR 'caribbean'/exp OR 'caribbean' OR 'pacific islands'/exp OR 'pacific islands' OR 'afghanistan'/exp OR afghanistan OR 'angola'/exp OR angola OR 'bangladesh'/exp OR bangladesh OR 'benin'/exp OR benin OR 'bhutan'/exp OR bhutan OR 'bolivia'/exp OR bolivia OR 'botswana'/exp OR botswana OR burkina) AND faso OR 'burundi'/exp OR burundi OR ...

#2 'hiv infections'/exp OR 'hiv infections' OR 'hiv'/exp OR 'hiv' OR 'hiv/aids'/exp OR 'hiv/aids' OR 'people living with hiv'/exp OR 'people living with hiv' OR 'plhiv' OR 'hiv care'/exp OR 'hiv care' OR 'hiv services' OR 'hiv treatment':ti,ab

#1 'covid-19 vaccines'/exp OR 'covid-19 vaccines' OR 'sars-cov-2 vaccine'/exp OR 'sars-cov-2 vaccine' OR 'covid-19 immunization' OR 'covid-19 vaccination':ti,ab.

Participant or population People living with HIV.

Intervention COVID-19 Vaccine integration models.

Comparator None.

Study designs to be included All empirical research approaches: quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods such as observational studies, randomized controlled trials, quasi-experimental studies, cohort and case-control studies, and single-case reports.

Eligibility criteria Inclusion and exclusion criteria were defined using a modified Population, Intervention, Comparison, Outcomes (PICO) framework focusing on studies involving PLHIV, men and women aged 18 and older residing in LMICs. Since our main interest was on how COVID-19 vaccination is integrated into HIV care services, we included studies that reported on strategies or models for delivering COVID-19 vaccines through HIV care platforms.

Information sources We developed a thorough search strategy using Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) and Boolean operators. This strategy combined terms related to PLHIV, COVID-19 vaccines, and integration strategies. The search terms and strategies were based on an initial scoping search and consultations with experts.

Main outcome(s) Increased vaccine uptake; Increased vaccine coverage.

Additional outcome(s) Number of people living with HIV vaccinated.

Data management Two reviewers, PK and SB independently carried out the screening and review process using Rayyan, an online tool for managing systematic reviews. Any differences in opinion were resolved through discussion or with input from third reviewers, NMM or RC. In the first screening phase, we assessed titles and abstracts for eligibility. We then performed full-text screening on all records that met the inclusion criteria. We documented the reasons for excluding studies during the full-text review stage.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis Two independent reviewers carreid put all the review processes. A third reviewer who is the senior reviewer reviewed the process, discussed and addressed any discrepancies.

Strategy of data synthesis We performed a narrative synthesis with tabulation to analyze the data.

Subgroup analysis None.

Sensitivity analysis None.

Language restriction English only articles.

Country(ies) involved Low and middle income countries.

Keywords COVID-19; HIV; vaccine integration; service delivery models; low- and middle-income countries.

Dissemination plans Through publications in peer reviewed journals, conference presentations.

Contributions of each author
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