

# What is Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (option B+)?

Stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS from mothers to their children is a first step to curbing the epidemic. In Swaziland, since February 2013, Médecins Sans Frontières has rolled out an innovative approach called PMTCT B+.

## PMTCT B+ approach with



HIV positive pregnant women

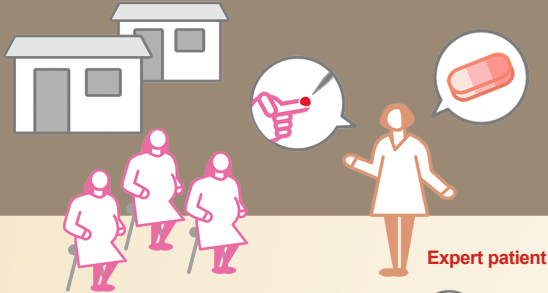


HIV positive breast-feeding women

With this approach, women start a life-long antiretroviral (ARV) treatment rapidly after being screened HIV positive, regardless of the status of their immune system.

## From testing to treatment

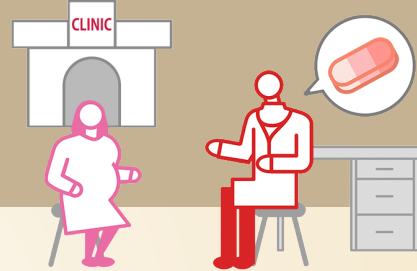
Getting people tested is often a challenge. Expert patients, who are themselves HIV-positive, are important advocates for encouraging people to get tested and know their HIV status.



Expert patient

Pregnant women screened HIV-positive start life-long antiretroviral treatment rapidly, regardless of their CD4 count\*.

\*CD4 count: a measurement of the strength of a patient's immune system



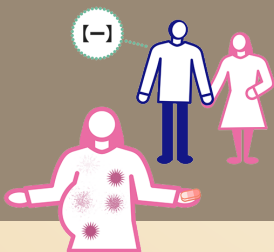
With the introduction of the PMTCT B+ approach, the risk of transmission of HIV from mother to child is further reduced.



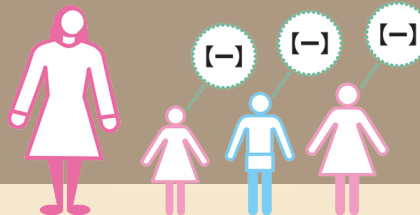
New born babies take preventive treatment in syrup form for six weeks after birth. The baby will undergo another HIV test at six weeks to confirm he/she is HIV-negative.

## Benefits of PMTCT B+ approach

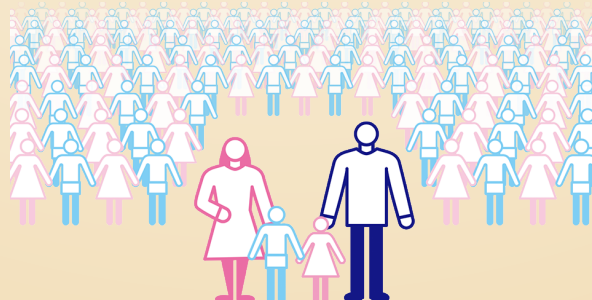
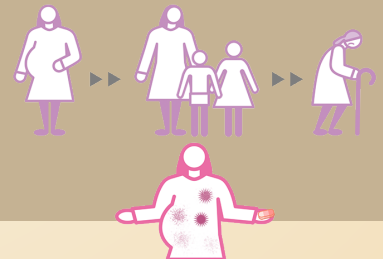
Protect HIV-negative partners



Prevent transmission of the virus in future pregnancies



Allow HIV-positive mothers to live longer by reducing the risk of developing opportunistic infections



**PMTCT B+ is a first step to envision an HIV-free Swaziland.**