



December 2020

## Reaching Impact, Saturation and Epidemic Control (RISE)

# What's New at the VMMC Online Training Hub

### Background on the VMMC Online Training Hub (OTH)

The VMMC Online Training Hub (OTH) is an e-learning platform that provides classes, resources, and communities of practice to help clinicians advance their skills and knowledge around performing voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC). The OTH covers the didactic, theoretical VMMC information traditionally learned through in-person workshops. With the OTH, learners complete and pass the online course before proceeding to in-person clinical practicums organized by country programs. As of the beginning of FY21, over 3,500 learners have enrolled in OTH. Over 50% have completed the assigned curriculum and are actively contributing to the safety and quality of VMMC services being provided in various countries.

### What's new?

In 2020, RISE updated the OTH content to incorporate critical technical updates from WHO and PEPFAR VMMC guidelines. Updates cover key topics including:

- **VMMC Age eligibility:** The updates reaffirm WHO and PEPFAR's age eligibility guidance to target males 15+ for surgical VMMC services. Boys ages 10-14 years should not be circumcised, but should receive alternate HIV prevention services such as screening for HIV testing, counseling on sexual risk reduction or avoidance, Tetanus vaccination, and other sexual health reproductive services. Boys ages 10-14 and their parents should be advised to return for surgical VMMC once the boy is 15 years of age, or older.
- **Shang Ring™:** The updated content introduces learners to the No-Flip method of Shang Ring™ application, as well as links to new Shang Ring™ training resources (a video and downloadable app).
- **Surgical Technique:** The updated content reinforces the Dorsal Slit technique as the preferred technique among WHO, PEPFAR, and many Ministries of Health. Learners are advised against use of the forceps-guided technique due to higher rates of adverse events.
- **Suture Size and Reusable Instruments:** The new content updates learners on new guidance around suture size (recommending use of a 4.0 suture on a 19mm, 3/8 circle reverse-cutting needle in younger clients), as well as PEPFAR's recommendation that programs transition from disposable kits to reusable instruments.



- **PrePex™:** The OTH also now includes updates to reflect changed guidance on use of the PrePex™ device; PrePex™ is no longer recommended by the WHO or widely available due to higher rates of adverse events. Multiple chapters of the OTH course that were exclusively related to the PrePex™ device have been deleted. Remaining chapters that include references to the PrePex™ device are now preceded by a reminder that the device is no longer recommended, and may be revised in a future update.
- **Final Exam:** The OTH now includes an updated final exam to reflect updated course content, ensuring that learners are able to demonstrate up-to-date, comprehensive knowledge on provision of high-quality VMMC services upon completion of the OTH course.
- **Resource Library:** The Resource Library within the OTH has been updated to include multiple new clinical guidance documents and recommendations from the WHO and PEPFAR related to provision of VMMC services.

## How does the OTH help prepare providers to offer high-quality VMMC services?

VMMC OTH Features	
	<p><b>Take training anywhere, anytime</b> Learners can use multiple devices such as mobile phones, tablets, and laptops, or desktops to take OTH classes. They can also download the classes to read offline when internet access is not available.</p>
	<p><b>Learn by doing</b> This VMMC online training course provides information through interactive online classes that feature animations, multimedia elements, quizzes, and links to supplemental resources, linked with extensive hands-on experience through in- person surgical training.</p>
	<p><b>Engage with a community</b> Learners can connect and collaborate with fellow learners, course moderators, and others in their field through Connect, the site's social collaboration section.</p>
	<p><b>Frequently asked questions</b> Learners can use the FAQ section of the site to easily find answers to the most common questions on how to use the site.</p>
	<p><b>Resource Library</b> The Resource Library contains up-to-date VMMC publications, reports, journal articles, videos, and more, and can be supplemented with country-specific documents, as desired.</p>
	<p><b>Who should register for this training?</b> Health care workers including nurses, clinical officers, physicians, and counselors providing VMMC services or those being considered for training as VMMC providers should register. Also, site managers, program coordinators &amp; managers, and donor agency technical staff who want to refresh their knowledge of VMMC can register. The OTH course is not intended for the general public.</p>

## Acknowledgments

The VMMC OTH is operated by USAID's Reaching Impact, Saturation, and Epidemic Control Program (RISE). The OTH was developed and previously operated by USAID's AIDSFree project. The following organizations contributed to the design and development of the VMMC Online Training Hub: U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Washington, DC; USAID/Southern Africa; U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/South Africa; National Department of Health, South Africa; USAID's AIDSFree Project; The Centre for HIV and AIDS Prevention Studies (CHAPS); JPS Africa; USAID's ASSIST Project (University Research Co., LLC); The Health Communication Capacity Collaborative (HC3); and USAID's Supporting Operational AIDS Research Project (SOAR). This brief is adapted and updated from the AIDSFree Project.

## About RISE

RISE, a five-year global project funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), works with countries to achieve a shared vision of attaining and maintaining epidemic control, with stronger local partners capable of managing and achieving results through sustainable, self-reliant, and resilient health systems by 2024. RISE's contributions to this work will lead to fewer new HIV infections, decreased HIV-related morbidity and mortality, and increased quality of life for people living with HIV. RISE is implemented by Jhpiego, in partnership with ICAP at Columbia University (ICAP), Management Sciences for Health (MSH), ANOVA Health Institute (ANOVA), BAO Systems, JHU Center for Public Health and Human Rights (JHU), and Mann Global Health (MGH).

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