

# **Tools to measure HIV Knowledge, Attitudes & Practices (KAPs) in healthcare providers: a systematic review**

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## **Background:**

Multiple studies in lower and middle-income countries have attempted to measure HIV-related Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAPs) among healthcare providers. However, much less is known among HIV-KAPs in healthcare providers in higher-income countries—which has specific implications for prevention, health promotion and targeted training of health professional in these contexts.

## **Methods:**

To identify potentially useful and relevant measures, we conducted a systematic search in July 2019 to identify and evaluate existing tools designed to measure HIV-related KAPs among healthcare providers in higher-income countries, including measures of stigmatising attitudes and practices.

## **Results:**

In total, eight instruments were identified within higher income countries. To evaluate these instruments, we applied the COSMIN methodology. The eight instruments included in the study drew on adapted forms of adapted HIV-related KAPs and theories of stigma and were developed based on a range of methodological designs and for different cadre of healthcare workers. The extent to which the psychometric properties of each tool were evaluated varied widely, and were described in detail.

## **Conclusion:**

This study identified and evaluated measurement tools available in higher- income-countries for assessing HIV stigma among healthcare providers in similar health settings. A systematic search of the literature indicated that these studies adopted aspects of four unique HIV stigma scales. As such, no standardised measures were identified. This synthesis supports the need for a standardised measure with good reliability and validity for assessing HIV stigma to be developed. The paucity of credible instruments to measure healthcare professional's stigma towards PLHIV/AIDS is of significant concern, given KAP among health professionals can directly impact upon client engagement and health outcomes and therefore represents a useful target for future training of healthcare professionals and ongoing professional development.

## **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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