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ADDENDUM 5: TIMEFRAME FOR SURGICAL AID UTILIZATION

TRANSVERSAL CONTRACT RT35-2023: APPOINTMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDER FOR THE SERVICE OF VOLUNTARY MEDICAL MALE CIRCUMCISION (MMC) TO THE STATE FOR THE PERIOD 1 SEPTEMBER 2023 TO 30 AUGUST 2026.

As indicated previously in Addendum 3, all service providers on RT35-2023 have until 31 December 2024 to ensure that relevant clinicians undergo training on the use of the surgical aid. It has come to our attention that there have been delays in training on the CircumQ surgical aid potentially hampering the service delivery which negatively affects the achievement of quarterly targets. Since MMC is a highly efficacious (60% protection) intervention in the prevention of new HIV infections, including Men's Health, it is imperative that service delivery continues in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

Therefore, RT35 service providers will be allowed to continue MMC service delivery using the conventional dorsal slit surgical method until the backlog for training is reduced, and communication with new effective dates will be issued. All precautions will be taken by RT35 service providers and compliance with National MMC Guidelines/Quality assurance standards, to prevent any adverse events to clients using the dorsal slit method.

It should be noted that this is a temporary measure and does not nullify paragraph 5.10 of the Special Conditions of Contract. NDOH in consultation with provinces and CircumQ will send RT35 partners a training schedule to fast-track capacity building on the CircumQ. Compliance from all provinces and RT35 service providers will be closely monitored.

Kind regards,

**MANTHEPENG TSHINAVHA** 

FOR CHIEF DIRECTORATE: TRANSVERSAL CONTRACTING

**DATE: 20 March 2025**