Kenya Lowers Minimum HIV Testing Age for Infants

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The Kenyan government has lowered the minimum age at which infants born from HIV-positive mothers can be screened for the virus from 18 months to six weeks, allAfrica/*The Nation* reports.

“All infants born to HIV-infected mothers or found to be [HIV positive] should be offered cotrimoxazole prophylaxis from six months onward,” wrote K. Kimani, MD, the country’s director of medical services in a September circular that was distributed to medical and health professionals throughout Kenya.

According to the article, about 150,000 Kenyan children are living with HIV. There are more than 34,000 new HIV infections in Kenya each year, resulting in 30,000 AIDS-related deaths.

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