

# TLC+

## Testing and Linkage to Care plus Treatment



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# Background

- 448,000 of 1,100,000 HIV-positive people in the US are not engaged in care and treatment and 56,300 people are newly infected with HIV each year
- In December 2009 Project Inform and CHAMP led a multidisciplinary group of 45 people in a Think Tank to determine:
  - whether a domestic test and treat strategy could increase the number of people engaged into care & treatment, improve their health outcomes, and reduce incidence & health disparities
  - which policies and programs could be included in the NHAS as a result of the groups conclusions
- Developed the name “TLC+” instead of treatment as prevention



# Basic Definition of TLC+

- *Expanded, integrated and coordinated* HIV testing, linkage and care options
- At testing sites, greater focus on *linkage* to voluntary care and support services for the newly diagnosed
- Medical and support services focus on *readiness* to engage and sustain needed medical treatments and risk-reduction strategies



# TLC+ Promotes

- Care and treatment benefits and options as soon as possible
- Early and regular CD4 and viral load tests
- Federal antiretroviral treatment guidelines
- Patient's decision-making rights
- Expanded access to medical and support services
- Retention to medical care and treatment adherence
- Innovative outreach, including peer-based strategies to engage those out of care and link them into care



# TLC+ Rationale

- 448,000 of 1,100,000 HIV-positive people in the US are not engaged in care and treatment and 56,300 people are newly infected with HIV each year
- The Granich model proposes a utopian model for universal testing and treatment that would improve health outcomes and virtually halt transmission in South Africa *Lancet '09*
- “Swiss Study” and several African sero-discordant partner transmission studies *Swiss National AIDS Commission Statement*
- Community viral load studies have begun to show the effect on lowering viral load and transmission in certain communities *Das-Douglas CROI 2010*
- Consideration of the individual in starting treatment earlier recommended in DHHS and other treatment guidelines



# Issues for Success of TLC+

- Prevention with Positives counseling is critical to addressing concerns about behavioral dis-inhibition that might occur with treatment as prevention
- Promotion of testing, care and treatment should be encouraged and continued education of the patient community is crucial
- Stigma and discrimination continue to be significant barriers to TLC+ that need to be addressed
- Providers need continuing education regarding working with HIV+ individuals in regards to prevention counseling



# Discussion Points

- TLC+ is not a new idea
- TLC+ could move the US closer to the long-discussed goal of integrating testing, care and treatment and prevention
- TLC+ is not “utopian” as are modeling studies
- There are equal considerations to the improvement of the individual as well as to society as a whole
- However, there is not agreement regarding the potential impact on incidence
- TLC+ is not intended to replace other forms of prevention
- Concern about resources-National Health Care Reform and protection of Ryan White are essential to accomplishing TLC+ and controlling HIV/AIDS

- TLC+ is incorporated into the NHAS in July 2010 but work must now continue into implementation and resources
- Further studies will provide more evidence that TLC+ or a test and treat program can be effective on the individual and community level
  - HPTN052 is looking at the effect of HIV treatment on prevention
  - HPTN065 is assessing the feasibility of a test and treat program in DC and the Bronx



*For further information:*

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