TEST AND TREAT: INNOVATIVE WAYS FORWARD

AIDS 2018 POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

Indonesia, 8-9 December 2018
Innovative HIV testing through provider-based testing and partner notification

Partner Notification Services
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Partner Notification Services (PNS)

Person with HIV attends care visit (Index client)

Trained provider introduces PNS to client & client gives consent

Provider elicits sexual and drug-injecting partners

Client and provider select notification method for partners

Provider and/or client notifies partner of HIV exposure

Partner offered HIV testing and linkage to prevention or care

Objective: Increased partner testing, diagnosis, & linkage to prevention/care
History & Rationale

• Longstanding component of infectious disease management
  – Including for TB and STIs
  – Until last decade, HIV PNS limited to some high income countries
  – Increasing evidence of safety & effectiveness → global scale-up

• Sexual and drug injecting partners of PLHIV have increased likelihood of being:
  – HIV-positive OR
  – At high risk for HIV acquisition

• Opportunity for:
  – High yield HIV case-finding
  – Linking partners to HIV prevention and treatment

→ Achieve 90-90-90 – decrease HIV transmission & morbidity
Options for Notifying Partners

**Client Referral** = Index client tells partner(s) about HIV and encourages them to get tested

**Provider Referral** = Health care provider calls or visits partners to notify them of exposure and offer testing

**Contract Referral** = Client agrees to notify partner(s) within specific time period after which the provider will contact the partners with the client’s permission

**Dual referral** = Client and provider notify partners together

**Client Referral** = Index client tells partner(s) about HIV and encourages them to get tested
WHO Recommendations

Key evidence showed that assisted PNS:

- Increases HIV testing uptake & linkage to care among partners of PLHIV
- High test positivity (yield)
- Safe – social harm very rare
- Assisted is best (provider, contract, or dual vs passive referral)

Recommendation:
Voluntary assisted PNS should be offered as part of a comprehensive package of testing and care offered to people with HIV

*strong recommendation*  
*moderate quality evidence*
Principles of PNS

- Client centered and focused
- Confidential
- Voluntary and non-coercive
- Comprehensive and integrative
- Non-judgmental
- Culturally, linguistically appropriate
- Free
- Accessible and available to all
Implementation Considerations

• Can vary by provider type, setting (community, facility, self-test), and population

• Voluntariness and confidentiality:
  – Notification should be made only to partner(s)
  – Criminal justice, law enforcement, and non-health personnel should not be involved

• Should be offered periodically
  – People’s situations and partnerships change
  – Readiness to consent to PNS and/or share status with partners may change

• Preferred notification approaches and contact methods may vary by context and individual
Key Potential Challenges

• Laws or policies that stigmatize, criminalize, or discriminate against key populations or PLHIV
  – Complicate delivery and monitoring PNS
  – May increase reluctance to participate

• Eliciting, locating, and notifying partners
  – Requires well-trained providers
  – Can be significant investment
  – Affected by relationship dynamics
  – May be especially challenging for non-primary/casual partners and for mobile, vulnerable, or key populations
PNS vs. Index Testing

**Partner notification**
- Trained providers
- Ask PLHIV about sexual or drug injecting partners
- Notify named contacts about potential exposure and offer HIV testing
- Voluntary
- Passive and active referral options

**Index testing**
- Trained providers
- Ask PLHIV about sexual or drug injecting contacts, households, and children
- Offer HIV testing to household contacts who could have been exposed to HIV – e.g. sexual/drug injecting partners and children
- Voluntary
- Passive and active referral options

Both can be implemented in either community or facility settings.
Important to consider terminology acceptable to setting you work in and the community.
Country Policies

Uptake of assisted partner notification and index testing policies by region

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<th>Region</th>
<th>2016</th>
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Source: WHO GAM May 2018
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For questions, please contact: dkatz7@uw.edu
Resources

- AIDSFree HTS Knowledge Base: [https://aidsfree.usaid.gov/resources/hts-kb](https://aidsfree.usaid.gov/resources/hts-kb)