



# Rapid Linkage To HIV Care

Improved Health Outcomes Associated with Rapid Linkage to HIV Care Model in a Federally Qualified Health Center Look Alike (FQHC LAL).

## OVERVIEW



- Ohio's largest Ryan White Service Organization, providing care to 7,000+ PLWHA annually
- HRSA recognized FQHC LAL since 2017
- 4 Medical Centers located in 3 cities: Cincinnati, Columbus, and Dayton
- Integrated services: Medical, Pharmacy, Behavioral Health, and Dental Care
- Anticipated Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) recognition in August 2020.

## INTRODUCTION

### Speed is the key in linkage to HIV Care

Timely linkage to care for newly diagnosed persons is critical in the fight against HIV. People of color, youth, and those who experience poverty face health disparities fueled by historical and systemic limitations placed upon access to healthcare.

### In 2015:

Increased access to specialized HIV care improves rates of viral load suppression, which prevents both long-term health complications and further transmission of the virus. Linkage to treatment and ART increases when medical offices set appointments 1-2 weeks from the time an appointment is requested, instead of 6 weeks.

## METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

In April 2018, we implemented a Linkage to Care model with the following strategies:



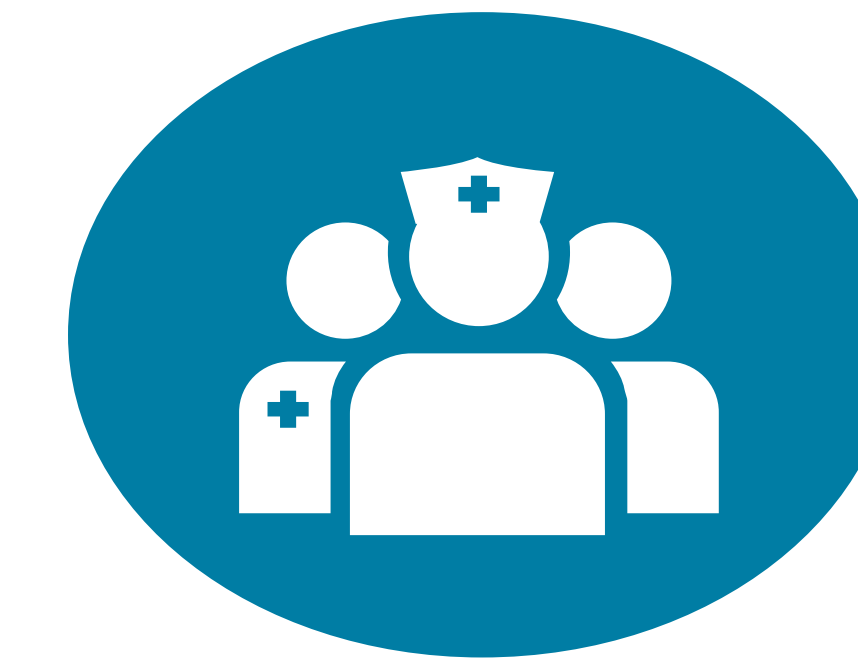
**Redesigned/rapid entry into care**

Linkage workflows and quick connection to ensure access to medical care within 48 hours of referral.



**Targeted health navigation**

Provides a structured pathway for the patient's 1st year in care.



**Improved Care Team organization**

Standing orders, protocols, and procedures to better facilitate rapid entry.

## RESULTS

Of the 22 patients referred to Columbus clinics from April-June 2018:

82%

82% completed for 1st Office/ Provider Visit (up 32%)

73%

73% achieved viral suppression < 90 days

87

Average days to viral suppression = 87

67%

67% of AA/Black participants (10 out of 15) achieved viral suppression < 90 days

Of the 14 patients referred to Dayton clinic from April-June 2018:

100%

Achieved viral suppression within 90 days

Of the 21 LTC Program graduates (as of April 2019):

100%

Retained care and achieved viral suppression

## WHAT WE LEARNED

- Process map and decision point development improved role clarity AND care coordination.
- Health literacy is a vital component of patient engagement and health navigation.
- Sharing electronic medical records across programs facilitates communication and monitoring of health outcomes.
- Motivational interviewing and understanding the stages of change guide "readiness" for rapid treatment model.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

- Increase capacity for community-based rapid linkage to care services.
- Replicate rapid linkage model in HIV prevention (PrEP)