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Test & Treat RAPID ACCESS Program

Press Release

HIV program designed to help the newly diagnosed start early treatment

Miami, FL, November 1, 2017: Borinquen Medical Centers of Miami-Dade, Inc. (BMC), a federally qualified health center, is pleased to announce our new program known as Test and Treat (T&T) Rapid Access. This collaborative effort between BMC, Miami-Dade County, and Florida Department of Health will streamline the treatment process for newly diagnosed HIV patients, guaranteeing them an expert treatment and support team within hours of the diagnosis. All clients enrolled in T&T Rapid Access will receive culturally competent, integrated specialty and case management care and services via BMC's experienced staff. These same-day services include: test result and discussion with our skilled specialty wellness staff; assignment to a case manager; review patient's eligibility for a variety of social and community support services and healthcare programs; see a medical provider and complete additional lab tests.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is a major health threat for Miami-Dade County. In fact, Miami-Dade County is the leading county in Florida experiencing the highest number of new HIV cases. The state of Florida has planned Four Key Components to eliminate HIV Transmission and Reduce HIV-related Deaths; T&T is one of the four components which provides immediate linkage to HIV care and initiation of ART treatment at the time of HIV diagnosis and at the time of returning to care after a gap in services. Increasing data show a medical benefit to the patient when immediate ART is initiated, particularly during acute/ early HIV infection. In addition, the community-level public health benefit not only includes the reduction of HIV transmission and better health outcomes by filling in gaps in service delivery but it also provides patients with the first experience of empowerment to live successfully with HIV. Borinquen is committed to decreasing health disparities for individuals living with HIV in our Miami-Dade community. T&T Rapid Access gives us the opportunity to offer more services, increase access to these services, and to make a lasting, positive impact on our community.

Experienced medical, case management, and specialty care staff will provide an atmosphere conducive to assist patients throughout their personal journeys. If you are interested in the T&T services and/or you know someone that can benefit from T&T Rapid Access, please contact the Rapid Access Navigator, Angel Camacho at (305) 576-1675, ext. 3211 for any questions and to schedule an appointment immediately.
