

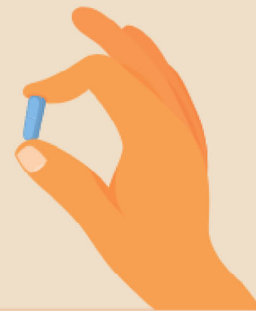
MULTILEVEL DETERMINANTS OF RAPID ANTIRETROVIRAL TREATMENT IMPLEMENTATION AND DEMAND IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

How can we get HIV treatment to patients faster?

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What is Antiretroviral Treatment?

Antiretroviral treatment (ART) is a treatment regimen for individuals living with HIV. Though it is not a cure for HIV, it helps patients live a long and healthy life by lowering their viral load, or the amount of HIV virus in the body, often to "undetectable" levels.



Rapid ART:

- Getting a patient linked to treatment after an HIV diagnosis is typically a multi-step process with multiple clinic visits.
- Rapid ART shortens this process into just 1 or very few appointments (within 7 days of diagnosis), which is shown to have better outcomes for the patient's health.

Our Goals:

- We set out to understand what helps and gets in the way of (1) implementing rapid ART in Miami-Dade County and (2) patients receiving rapid ART following a new diagnosis or re-engagement in care.

What We Found:

We interviewed members of 4 clinics and 31 recently diagnosed patients to understand their experiences with providing and receiving rapid ART, and found the following:

Factors that impact how ART is implemented

FOR CLINICS

- How complicated the process & protocols to implement rapid ART are for providers
- How connected or how well all the organizations and clinics involved in rapid ART collaborate
- How committed the organizations' leadership is to rapid ART and the availability of resources to help implement rapid ART
- How flexible the clinic's staff can be to the patients' needs; since this is a holistic process, it requires staff flexibility and commitment
- If the clinic has the resources to have specially designated workers (Patient Navigators) to support patients and help staff implement rapid ART protocols

FOR PATIENTS

- The degree to which patients saw rapid ART as beneficial in terms of simplifying treatment access
- How well clinics address patient needs (e.g., patients may come in who need additional resources to address external factors like housing insecurity, mental health, substance use)
- How knowledgeable and competent the provider is in delivering rapid ART to the patient (e.g., explaining the process accurately, following protocols with fidelity)
- How warm, affirming, respectful, and flexible a provider's attitude is
- How good the clinic was at community outreach efforts to inform the community about the availability of rapid ART

IMPORTANCE:



South Florida is an HIV epicenter. This study looks at both clinic and patient perspectives to understand issues specific to implementing rapid ART here.

**Ending
The
HIV
Epidemic**

Focusing on these factors could help reach the goals of the Ending the HIV Epidemic US Plan.

We found that patients and clinics agreed on many factors, such as the benefits of rapid ART and importance of networks and collaborations.



If you are interested in learning more about implementing rapid ART, contact us at reach@miami.edu!

You can read the full publication at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35703770/> and contact us at REACH@miami.edu

