

**Good public health practice:
Testing and Linkage to Care *Plus***

Good public health practice: Testing and Linkage to Care *Plus*

This presentation provides an overview of the recommendations developed by 45 experts from various disciplines who participated in a December 2010 Think Tank on TLC+.

*The presentation **does not** explore in-depth separate positions on 'test and treat' advanced by Reuben Granich and colleagues in a 2009 Lancet paper and by NIAID's HIV Prevention Trials Network vis-à-vis a new, multi-site feasibility study.*



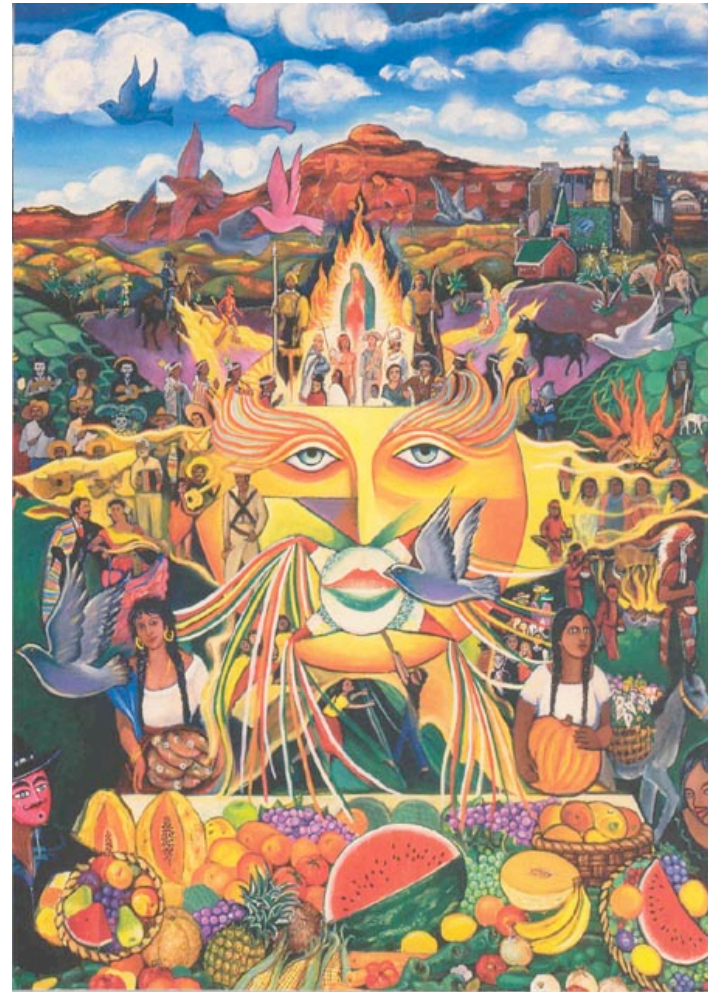
Testing and Linkage to Care Plus (TLC+): Toward a new national standard of care



- *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/sustain needed medical treatments and risk-reduction strategies

TLC+ strives to ...

- Improve health and wellness for HIV+ people
- Meet the needs of the newly diagnosed and those out of care
- Assist communities to achieve public health goals, including reduced incidence of HIV



Elements of TLC+

1. Expanded routine and targeted *HIV testing*
2. Expanded *linkage* to *medical and support services* for newly diagnosed
3. Prompt medical evaluation for people diagnosed with HIV, with full attention to patient *rights and readiness* for treatment



Elements of TLC+ *continued*



4. Expanded efforts to support care and treatment *adherence*
5. *Prevention-with-positives* counseling and support services
6. Screening and treatment for STIs, viral hepatitis and *other health issues*
7. Implementation monitoring and evaluation

Approach with Tender Love & Care



TLC+ promotes ...

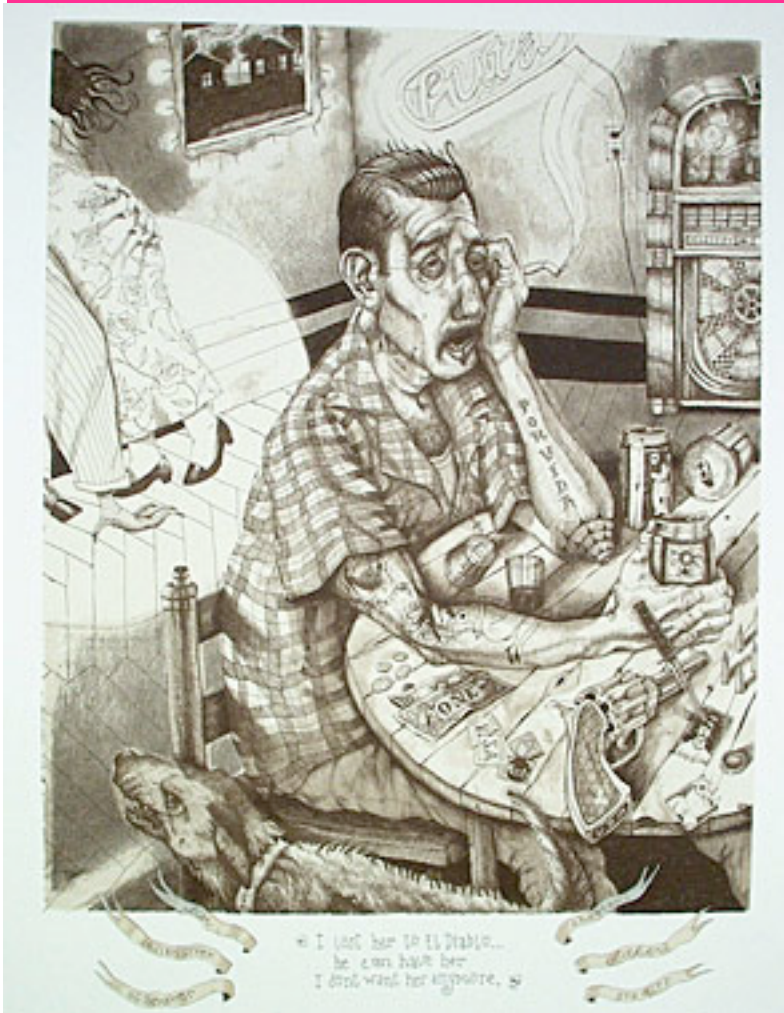
- Care and treatment benefits/ options as early as possible
- Early and regular CD4 and viral load diagnostics
- Federal HIV treatment guidelines
- Patients' decision-making rights
- Expanded access to medical and support services
- Retention in medical care and treatment adherence
- Innovative outreach, including peer-based strategies, to engage those out-of-care

TLC+ Requires ...

- Better *continuity of care*
- *Integration and coordination* of services/systems and public/private funding streams
- Innovative approaches to case finding, care retention, and adherence
- Increased *funding* to bring key components to scale
- Enhanced *training and skills development* for medical and support service workers
- Better collect and use of *metrics* in planning and implementation



TLC+ is not ...



- A new concept or a published, standardized model
- Strictly “Test-and-Treat,” which implies immediate and nearly coercive treatment initiation

**TLC+ is an active discussion/
debate to achieve better HIV
prevention and care outcomes**

NIH Studies:

- **HPTN052:**
 - Studying HIV treatment for prevention
- **HPTN065:** Studying a TLC+ model in the Bronx, NY and Washington, DC
 - Comparison cities (Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, and Miami)
 - Investigating patient incentives
 - Expanding provider training



Keys to Success



- Stigma and discrimination mitigation
- Strengthened medical provider participation
- Strengthened community education about HIV
- Adequate reimbursement for HIV testing
- Funding to expand TLC+ components

Considerations for the Latino Community

- Anti-immigrant, anti-gay, and HIV-related stigma remain persistent barriers for Latino/as with HIV
- High un-insurance rates among Latinos make it urgent to define better approaches
- Health insurance barriers will persist for undocumented immigrants under health reform legislation
- Support services such as mental health, translation services, case management and other services are key to working with Latinos
- Pilots in Bronx, Washington and San Francisco will give early indications of relevant issues in expanding TLC+ for Latino populations

Additional Resources

Project Inform: www.projectinform.org/testandtreat/index.shtml

HIV Prevention Trials Network:

[www.hptn.org/web%20documents/
HPTN065/065_TLCPlusCmtFAQv1_25Feb10.pdf](http://www.hptn.org/web%20documents/HPTN065/065_TLCPlusCmtFAQv1_25Feb10.pdf)

National HIV/AIDS Strategy:

Care Recommendations:

http://nationalaidsstrategy.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/CARE-Recommendations_3.05.10.pdf

Framework Recommendations:

<http://nationalaidsstrategy.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/NHAS-framework-recommendation2010.pdf>

Special Thanks



David Ernesto Munar
Vice President
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
312-334-0933
dmunar@aidschicago.org
www.aidschicago.org
www.aidsconnect.net/dose



NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
HISPANIC AMERICANS:
Making a Positive Impact on American Society
SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15