



Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000
Governor Asa Hutchinson
Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

December 20, 2019

Dear Primary Care Provider,

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has proposed the *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America* initiative to end the HIV epidemic in the United States within 10 years. To achieve maximum impact, Arkansas was identified as one of the states with rural communities that are now hardest hit by the HIV epidemic. While communities will develop plans based on their own needs, they will focus on four key strategies: **Diagnose, Treat, Prevent, and Respond**. As providers of health care, we all have a role to play in each of these strategies.

Of the estimated 1.1 million people in the United States living with HIV, approximately 15% (one in 7) are unaware of their status, underscoring the need for expanded HIV testing efforts in primary care. We now have several highly effective, single tablet HIV medications with minimal side effects allowing people living with HIV(PLWH) to live a near normal life span. This also means that for the most part, hospitalization and other complications of this disease can be avoided. Now that PLWH are living longer and many HIV specialists are nearing retirement age, there is a growing shortage of care providers to take care of the health care needs of this population. Since HIV medical care is now less complex, this means the health care needs of PLWH can be incorporated into their primary care visits, and when needed, PCPs can obtain consultation from a HIV specialist.

To that end, The Arkansas Department of Health has created a resource list that will assist you in developing expertise in providing HIV testing, prevention and treatment in primary care settings. If you are interested in learning more or want to provide PrEP and/or HIV treatment in your practice, please click on the link here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/providerletter2019>.

We thank you in advance for your dedication to helping end the HIV epidemic in Arkansas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH
Secretary of Health



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Dear Primary Care Provider,

Thank you for your interest in developing expertise in providing HIV care especially as we are getting underway with the federal initiative "End the HIV epidemic in the US." The following list includes several guidelines and CME opportunities for primary care providers who want to provide primary care and HIV treatment for their patients living with HIV. Many of the sites below offer Category 1 CME online along with links to preceptorships and live CME events.

- **National HIV Curriculum**
<https://www.hiv.uw.edu/>
- **Regional AIDS Education and Training Centers**
<https://aidsetc.org/resources>
<https://aidsetc.org/training>
- **Primary Care Guidelines for the Management of Persons Infected with HIV: 2013 Update by the HIV Medicine Association of the Infectious Diseases Society of America**
<https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/58/1/e1/374007>
- **International Antiviral Society-USA**
<https://www.iasusa.org/>
- **Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Adults and Adolescents with HIV**
<https://aidsinfo.nih.gov/guidelines/html/1/adult-and-adolescent-treatment-guidelines/o>
- **American Academy of HIV Medicine Provider Education Center 2018 Core Curriculum**
<https://aahivm-education.org/home-basic>
- **HIV InSite: HIV Knowledge Base from University of California San Francisco**
<http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/>
- **Clinical Care Options HIV**
<https://www.clinicaloptions.com/hiv/programs?q&sortBy&sortOrder=asc&page=1>

Again, we appreciate your willingness to become involved in this effort. Please feel free to contact me with questions or for clinical support in your journey to become a HIV care provider.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon K. Allen, PA".

Jon Allen, PA, AAHIVS
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