### Identify Rapid ART Candidates

- A new reactive POC HIV test result, new HIV diagnosis, acute HIV, or known HIV,
- No or limited prior ARV use, and
- No medical conditions or OIs that require deferral of ART initiation

### Counseling and Education

- HIV diagnosis
- Disclosure
- Adherence
- Side effects and management of
- Management of lifelong medications

### Assess and Refer

- Health literacy
- Identify and address medical and psychosocial barriers to treatment and adherence
- As indicated, refer for substance use treatment, behavioral health services, housing assistance

### Baseline Lab Testing

- Confirm HIV diagnosis
- Viral load
- Resistance testing
- CD4 count
- HAV, HBV, HCV testing
- Metabolic panel
- STIs
- Urinalysis
- Pregnancy test for individuals of childbearing potential

### Initiate ART

- Choose a preferred regimen based on patient characteristics and preference
- Initiate ART immediately—preferably on the same day—or within 96 hours
- Administer the first dose on site if possible

### Payment Assistance?

- Assess need for payment assistance
- Refer patients with no insurance to NYS UCP
- Provide resources for payment assistance

### Follow-Up

- Contact the patient within 24 to 48 hours by phone (or other preferred method)
- Assess medication tolerance and adherence
- If feasible, schedule in-person visit with medical care provider within 7 days
- Reinforce adherence

### Adjust ART

- Change or adjust the initial ART regimen based on results of initial lab and resistance testing

---

**Figure 1. Protocol for Rapid Antiretroviral Therapy Initiation**

New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute: [www.hivguidelines.org](http://www.hivguidelines.org)