



CLINICAL GUIDELINES PROGRAM

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AIDS INSTITUTE | HIV · HCV · SUBSTANCE USE · LGBT HEALTH

When to Initiate Antiretroviral Therapy, With Protocol for Rapid Initiation

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Figure 1: Protocol for Rapid ART Initiation

Identify Rapid ART Candidates	Counseling and Education	Assess and Refer	Baseline Lab Testing	Initiate ART	Payment Assistance?	Follow-Up	Adjust ART
<p>Candidates have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new reactive POC HIV test result, new HIV diagnosis, acute HIV, or known HIV, and • No or limited prior ARV use, and • No medical conditions or OIs that require deferral of ART initiation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV diagnosis • Disclosure • Adherence • Side effects and management of • Management of lifelong medications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm HIV diagnosis • Viral load • Resistance testing • CD4 count • HAV, HBV, HCV testing • Metabolic panel • STIs • Urinalysis • Pregnancy test for individuals of childbearing potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose a preferred regimen based on patient characteristics and preference • Initiate ART immediately—preferably on the same day—or within 72 hours • Administer the first dose on site if possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess need for payment assistance • Refer patients with no insurance to NYS UCP • Provide resources for payment assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change or adjust the initial ART regimen based on results of initial lab and resistance testing