Scaling Up Rapid Linkage to HIV Treatment in Los Angeles County Using a Learning Collaborative Approach

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Learning Objectives

1. Describe the LA County Rapid and Ready Program
2. Discuss how a Learning Collaborative was used to support the implementation of Rapid ART
3. Identify the impact of the Learning Collaborative implementation process through data and results
4. Describe plans to continue to scale
Rapid and Ready Program

**Goal:** By 2025, 85% of patients newly diagnosed with HIV will get linked to care within one week of diagnosis.

Rapid and Ready is part of LAC's EHE initiative to **dramatically improve** rapid linkage to care and ART for newly diagnosed patients.
Rapid and Ready Program

Rapid Navigation
- Patient tests positive at offsite testing site
- Determine best clinic for client
- Schedule rapid visit at Rapid Treatment Hub

First Rapid Visit & Initiate Rapid ART
- Counseling & HIV education
- Referral to supports
- Lab draw
- Benefits enrollment
- Focused medical history & exam
- Dispense ART

Follow-Up
- Call pt in 2-3 days
- Schedule appt in 1-2 weeks

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Learning Collaborative Implementation Process

Planning & Preparation
- Collaborative charter
- Driver diagram/change package
- Evaluation framework

Recruitment & Participants
- Orientation webinar
- Capacity assessment
- Selection process
- Implementation teams formed

Implementation
May 2022 – January 2023
- 3 Learning Sessions
- 3 Action Period Webinars
- 1 Summative Congress
- Use of RedCAP data for improvement
- Monthly and on-demand coaching calls
- Rapid ART protocol development

Close Out & Continued Support
- Cumulative Learning Collaborative Evaluation
- Quarterly coaching calls
- Continued use of RedCAP

Monitoring & Continuous Quality Improvement

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Drivers of Rapid ART

Leadership & Buy-in
Clinical and Administrative Leaders establish systems to support and communicate commitment to rapid ART services, desired impact on patient outcomes, rapid ART implementation plan (including staffing roles), and how success will be measured.

Staff Structure & Skill
Key staff members who assist with connecting clients to, and providing rapid ART services and who have knowledge, skills, competency, and confidence to provide rapid ART services in alignment with their roles.

Scheduling Appointments & Same-Day Linkage to Care
Systems are in place to refer and link a person who tests HIV positive at off-site testing sites to clinical services within two days and same-day for those who test positive in a clinical setting.

Rapid Visit Procedures & Workflow
Key steps in the delivery of rapid ART include streamlined services focusing on client's high priority and most urgent needs without overwhelming the clinic or client.

Same Day ARV Medication
People who test HIV positive or are re-engaged in care are provided or can pick-up ARV medications on the same day as prescribed.

Financing & Payment for ART
Systems in place to ensure cost is not a barrier.

Support & Follow-up Services:
Processes to identify, refer, link patients to internal and external wraparound services.

Data Monitoring & Evaluation
Systems are established to collect, report, and use data to improve process for providing and measuring impact of rapid ART services on patient health outcomes.
Rapid and Ready Results: Data from Cohort 1 Clinics

% Linkage to Care in ≤ 7 days

Pre-Implementation (May - Aug 22) 33%
During Implementation (Sept - Dec 22) 48%

Source: Preliminary HIV Surveillance data as of January 2023
Rapid and Ready Scale Up

• The most effective components of the implementation process will be replicated.
• Clinics will be offered individualized coaching and support for Rapid ART protocol development.
• Rapid Treatment Hub clinics will be convened on a quarterly basis to support sustainability and scaling.
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