



# Effective Health Care

## Routine vs. Targeted Screening and Treatment with HAART for HIV

### Nomination Summary Document

#### Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Routine versus targeted screening will go forward for refinement as an AHRQ systematic review to facilitate the update of the 2005 (reaffirmed in 2007) United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendations on screening for human immunodeficiency virus. The scope of this topic, including populations, interventions, comparators, and outcomes, will be further developed in the refinement phase.
  - To sign up for notification when this and other USPSTF topics are posted, please go to <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/prevenix.htm>.
- Treatment with HAART was found to be addressed by The Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Panel on Antiretroviral Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents, Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council (OARAC) guidance on the use of antiretroviral agents in HIV-1 infected adults and adolescents. Given that these guidelines cover this nomination, no further activity will be undertaken on this topic.
  - Panel on Antiretroviral Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents. Guidelines for the use of antiretroviral agents in HIV-1-infected adults and adolescents. Department of Health and Human Services. December 2009; 1-161. Available at: <http://www.aidsinfo.nih.gov/ContentFiles/AdultandAdolescentGL.pdf>

#### Topic Description

**Nominator:** Government agency

**Nomination Summary:** The nominator is interested in an evidence report that will address routine versus targeted screening for asymptomatic individuals. Additionally, they are interested in different combinations of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) for patients diagnosed with HIV. Early versus delayed treatment is also a concern.

Staff-Generated PICO for Screening

**Population(s):** Asymptomatic adults and adolescents including pregnant women

**Intervention(s):** Routine opt-out HIV screening

**Comparator(s):** Targeted screening

**Outcome(s):** Early identification, risky behavior, rates of transmission, potential harms of screening (i.e., emotional, physical, and professional)

Staff-Generated PICO for Treatment

**Population(s):** Patients diagnosed with HIV, both asymptomatic and symptomatic, including pregnant women

**Intervention(s):** Treatment with HAART (classes of agents: nucleoside or nucleotide reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs), non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs), protease inhibitors (PIs), and fusion inhibitors) alone or in combination with counseling

**Comparator(s):** Various HAART regimens and early versus delayed treatment

**Outcome(s):** Quality of life, transmission rates, effects of early treatment on death and disability, intermediate outcomes (e.g., viremia, CD4 counts, and risky behavior), short- and long-term (e.g., cardiovascular disease) adverse drug effects

### Key Questions

from Nominator: None

## Considerations

- The topic meets all EHC Program selection criteria. (For more information, see [http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/.](http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/))
- This nomination has two main areas of interest:
  1. Routine versus targeted screening
  2. Treatment of HIV with HAART
- HIV represents a significant disease burden in the US. The rate of new infections in the US is persistent and has remained about the same for decades. Many HIV positive Americans are unaware of their HIV status. These points underscore the need to consider expanded HIV testing, prevention, and treatment services.
- Routine HIV screening may provide earlier detection of people with HIV and lead to earlier access to care and treatment and improved control of the disease. However, there is a high degree of uncertainty that remains with regard to the comparative effectiveness of screening approaches. Additionally, new evidence is available on traditional versus rapid HIV testing methods and outcomes associated with prevention counseling.
- The comparative effectiveness of HAART as treatment for HIV is addressed by frequently updated guidelines by The Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Panel on Antiretroviral Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents, Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council (OARAC) guidance on the use of antiretroviral agents in HIV-1 infected adults and adolescents. This guidance provides treatment recommendations for both treatment naïve and experienced patients. It also addresses timing of treatment, providing recommendations on when to start antiretroviral therapy according to CD4 count.