



Virology Newsletter

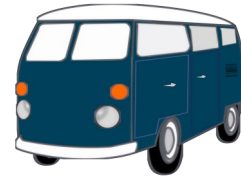
Welcome to the team!

My name is Robin Hayward and I'm a new Physician Assistant in the department. I moved to Iowa City in 1991 for undergraduate and PA school and I've been here ever since. After graduation I took a job at The University of Iowa Student Health Clinic and was there for the past 16 years- so I'm excited to learn some new things! In my free time I enjoy running, cycling, reading, cooking, and traveling. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone.

Nina's Farewell

It has been a great two years with the HIV program and the rest of the team. I am excited to say that I will be returning to school to pursue a career as a nurse practitioner. My last day will be July 6th, 2017. Please call Amy in my absence at 319-335-7444.

Cedar Rapids Shuttle



We are very excited to announce a new shuttle service from Cedar Rapids to University of Iowa Hospital!

We have partnered with Horizon's, A Family Service Alliance, to offer this shuttle to our patients.

Location: The shuttle leaves from the Ground Transportation Center (GTC) in downtown Cedar Rapids and drops off at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC).

Dates/

Times: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (excluding holidays)

Depart GTC	8:00 am	11:30 am	3:30 pm
Arrive UIHC	8:45 am	12:15 pm	4:15 pm
Depart UIHC	9:00 am	12:30 pm	4:30 pm
Arrive GTC	9:45 am	1:15 pm	5:15 pm

Arrival times are approximate. Most rides should take 45 minutes, but could fluctuate a bit based on traffic.

Cost: Rides are free for patients **not** covered by a Medicaid transportation benefit.

Contact: Reservations are required a minimum of 24 hours before the shuttle time, and by noon on Friday for rides on Monday. **To reserve a seat call 319-363-1321**, or contact your case manager.

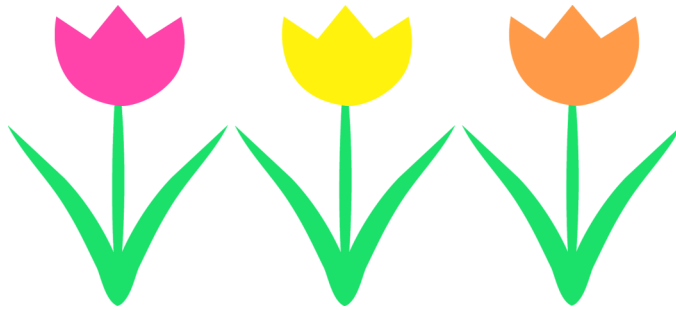
Special Circumstances:

Arrangements can be made to pick up patients up at their home I Linn County under special circumstances. Please contact your case manager or Amy at UIHC at 319-335-7444 to learn more.

A stop in North Liberty at Penn Place can be added if needed. Call 319-363-1321 or talk to your case manager to reserve a ride to/from this stop.

Ryan White Part C Applications Due

Our new fiscal year starts May 1, 2017 thru April 30, 2018. All patients with no payer or ADAP-sponsored insurance should complete an application for Ryan White financial assistance. Patients with dual eligibility (having both Medicare and full Medicaid benefits) or patients enrolled in an Iowa Wellness Managed Care Organization (MCOs) are not encouraged to complete an application as Ryan White will not likely have any additional benefit to you. Patients seeking assistance with insurance premiums, co-insurance or co-pays are welcome to apply. Please attach all supporting income verification as re-requested and your eligibility for assistance will be calculated according to our sliding-fee scale. Please contact Tricia Kroll at 319-384-7307 or tricia-kroll@uiowa.edu to request an application or if you have questions or concerns.

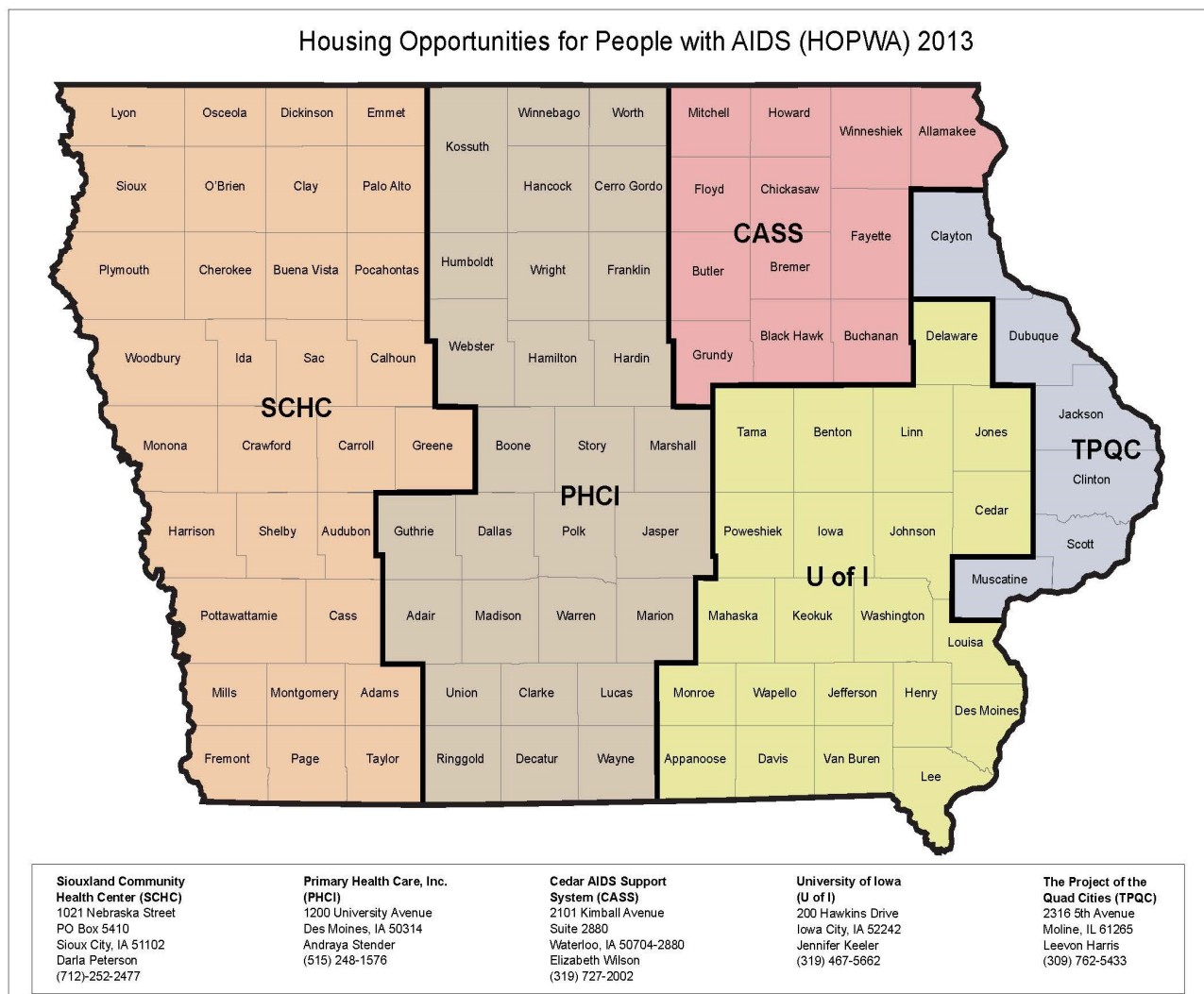


Enrollment Open for CLEAR

Enrollment has officially begun! Don't miss your chance to enroll now! CLEAR stands for: choosing life, empowerment, action, and results! The CLEAR program is open to persons living with HIV or at high risk of acquiring HIV who are interested in increasing or enhancing behaviors that promote healthy living, practice ways to effectively face challenges of daily living, increase positive thoughts, feelings and actions as well as develop daily routines to stay healthy. Participation in CLEAR will involve at least 6 one-hour weekly sessions with a trained CLEAR counselor. Participants will be given incentives to attend weekly appointments. To learn more about screening and enrollment process please call Katie Vodraska at 319-353-7173, email Katie at katie-vodraska@uiowa.edu, or contact your case manager.

HOPWA

Having trouble maintaining your housing due to an emergent situation such as job loss or illness? You may be eligible for HOPWA assistance. Please contact the HOPWA provider in your area to see if assistance is available. UIHC currently offers assistance with long-term rental assistance (TBRA), short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance (STRMU), and permanent housing placement services



TelePrEP Provides Iowans Access to HIV Prevention

TelePrEP, a collaborative telehealth service aimed to prevent the spread of HIV, launched as a pilot program in February 2017. The program uses secure video conferencing, in-home visits, and medication delivery by mail to expand HIV prevention across the state of Iowa, especially in rural areas.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 3 primary care doctors and nurses have not heard about pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV. To address the gap in PrEP awareness and utilization in Iowa, an interdisciplinary team of pharmacists, physicians, and public health professionals from the Iowa Department of Public Health, Johnson County Public Health, and the UIHC Departments of Infectious Disease and Pharmaceutical Care have created TelePrEP – a telehealth clinic created to increase access to preventive health care by overcoming barriers of geography and stigma.

TelePrEP virtual visits use HIPAA-compliant, secure videoconferencing which allows people to access care from the privacy and convenience of their home. Individuals interested in PrEP can be referred to a local PrEP provider or initiate a virtual visit through the TelePrEP clinic. Clients will speak to a pharmacist who provides evidence-based care – following guidelines released by the U.S. Public Health Service and CDC – in order to determine whether PrEP is appropriate for them. Necessary lab testing can be conducted close to the person's home via a network of UI Health Care affiliated sites and Iowa community health laboratory testing sites. When medically appropriate, patients will be prescribed PrEP and can opt to receive the medication by mail.

At this time, Truvada® taken once daily is the only PrEP regimen approved by the US Food and Drug Administration. The medication is appropriate for those without HIV who are at risk of contracting the virus. The CDC reports that daily use of PrEP can reduce the risk of HIV by more than 90 percent when used as part of a structured program of risk-reduction counseling and monitoring.

A person taking PrEP is monitored every three months to ensure that he or she remains HIV negative. Additionally, regular testing will assess kidney function and check for undetected sexually transmitted infections (STI). PrEP is covered by Iowa Medicaid plans and most private insurance plans. Co-pay assistance is available to those who qualify. The TelePrEP service, in collaboration with the Iowa PrEP Coordinator, will assist individuals in identifying the most affordable avenues for obtaining the medication and associated lab monitoring.

“This project is a collaborative partnership that represents efforts to significantly interrupt the chain of HIV transmission and reduce new infections across the state of Iowa especially by increasing access for individuals living in rural Iowa.”, says Patricia Young, HIV & Hepatitis Prevention Program Manager at IDPH.

For more information about PrEP and TelePrEP, please contact one of the individuals listed below, or visit www.prepiowa.org.

Cody Shafer, Iowa PrEP Coordinator, at cody.shafer@idph.iowa.gov, 515-443-0341

Angie Hoth, TelePrEP Coordinator, at angela-hoth@uiowa.edu, 319-467-8169

Denda Dillon, TelePrEP Pharmacist, at dena-dillon@uiowa.edu 319-541-0335

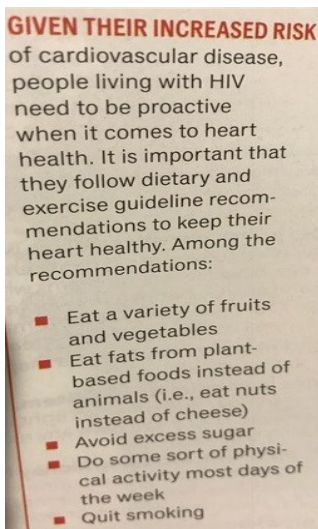
TelePrEP: teleprep@healthcare.uiowa.edu phone **319-467-8777**



**Randomized Trial to Prevent Vascular Events in HIV
Participant Summary Sheet for ACTG A5332**

The University of Iowa Virology Clinic is participating in an international study to determine if taking a FDA-approved statin medication (pitavastatin) can help prevent heart disease and death in people taking HIV medications (REPRIEVE or Randomized trial to Prevent Vascular Events in HIV). People 40 to 75 years of age with HIV will be randomized to take pitavastatin or a placebo. The study lasts approximately 72 months and you will not know if you are taking pitavastatin or placebo. The REPRIEVE trial will enroll 6500 people.

The purpose of this investigational drug is to reduce inflammation that may contribute to heart disease. Pitavastatin is used to lower cholesterol and triglyceride levels (fat in the blood). Clinical trials have also shown that statins may have other benefits, for example, heart disease and the levels of inflammation can be lowered by statins. If you participate, you will sign a consent document, be seen in clinic for a screening visit, an entry visit, and visits one month later. After this, you will need to be seen every 4 months. For more information, contact the HIV Program Office at 319-335-7437, or Wendy Sauter, RN at 319-335-7605.



This information comes from the most recent edition of Positively Aware. These facts tie in nicely with our REPRIEVE study.

Behavioral Health Consultant:

Maddie, our Behavioral Health Consultant can offer mental health “check-ins” as well as psychiatric evaluations for clients who have mental health concerns. She works closely with the Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner to make sure the client’s mental health needs are met. She also offers free brief therapy interventions at no cost to the client.

Insurance Reminders:

Reminder that if Medicaid or your MCO sends you a card asking for your monthly contribution you can check the box stating you have a hardship and are unable to pay. If you don’t pay this contribution or don’t send back the card with the box checked you will be dis-enrolled in Medicaid on the 3rd month, lose your insurance coverage, and this amount will be sent to collections. You will then need to reapply AND pay the contribution. If you have questions please contact us to help you work through this as soon as possible.



Appointment Reminders

For your appointment reminders, please contact Amy Halverson Bouffard at 319-335-7444 to change your mode of communication to either phone calls, text messages, or an email reminder about your upcoming appointment.

Angela Speers will be out on maternity leave around May to the beginning of July. If you are needing insurance assistance during this time please contact your case manager or Amy Halvorson Bouffard.





Remembering the Past, Looking to the Future

2017 Wellness Summit

MAY 5-7, 2017

PITCH changed our policy for the Wellness Summit in 2015, to sustain our organization and continue to grow we want to be welcoming to our partners, family members and others who are directly impacted by HIV/AIDS. The Wellness Summit will always be open to people living with HIV 1st, but we also want to invite our support systems to join us at the retreat to revitalize and gain awareness about living with HIV and living with and loving someone living with HIV. We think this will provide a unique opportunity and a new element to the Wellness Summit.

PITCH still strives to make the Wellness Summit a SAFE place for everyone who attends the weekend. So mark you calendars and save the date. Stay tuned for more information for **"Remembering the Past, Looking to the Future."**

The Wellness Summit provides a safe, non-judgmental environment for Iowans living with HIV/AIDS. The Wellness Summit is one way to help reduce the stigma and isolation that many people living with HIV/AIDS feel. The Summit is a source of encouragement, provides educational opportunities, camaraderie and a sense of community.



***An Organization Run for and by PLHIV
and our support systems***

2017 Wellness Summit

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