

# UIHC Spring 2024 Virology Newsletter

## Ryan White Part C Financial Assistance

Our new fiscal year and financial assistance term starts May 1, 2024 and runs through April 30, 2025. All patients with no payer should complete an application for Ryan White financial assistance. Patients with insurance through their employer or otherwise who are seeking assistance with out of pocket costs (insurance premiums, coinsurance or co-pays) are welcome to apply. Note that patients should reapply before the start of every fiscal year for continuity of coverage.

\*Patients with dual eligibility (having both Medicare and full Medicaid benefits) or patients enrolled in ADAP Sponsored Insurance (ASI) or an Iowa Wellness Managed Care Organization (MCOs) are not encouraged to complete an application as Ryan White Part C will not likely have any additional benefit to you.

Please contact Tricia Kroll at (319) 384-7307, or your Ryan White Case Manager to request an application or if you have questions/concerns. Applications should have updated insurance information and copies of household paystubs attached as requested. Eligibility for assistance will be calculated according to our sliding fee scale.



## Looking to make some changes this spring?

### Consider CLEAR!

CLEAR (Choosing Life: Empowerment, Action, Results) is a program open to those living with HIV interested in increasing or enhancing behaviors that support a healthy life. The program specializes in topics such as medication adherence, disclosure of HIV status, managing sexual risks and self advocacy in health care, but the program is personalized to fit your needs and wants. Your program will consist of 6 or more one hour sessions at UIHC or virtually. For more information, please contact Kari Vrban at 319-467-5655.

## Insurance and Benefits Reminders

Initial Medicare Enrollment: Medicare Initial Enrollment is 3 months before, the month of, and 3 months after your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.

If you do not sign up during this time frame, you may incur a lifelong penalty. You are only allowed to defer Medicare enrollment with no penalty if you have other qualifying coverage (like insurance from an employer). Our Field Benefit Specialist, Eliza Rose, can assist you with the Medicare enrollment and help you choose the plan that is right for you. You may call her at 319.467.5662.

Please remember to check your mail regularly. Make sure Medicaid and/or Medicare has your most current address. Important items such as Medicaid for Employed Persons with Disabilities (MEPD) premiums, insurance premiums, Medicaid reviews and time sensitive documents are sometimes missed due to incorrect address or not opening mail. Please contact FBS Eliza Rose or your case manager if you need help updating your address or understanding mail you've received.



If you are receiving assistance to pay for Medicare, MEPD, or ADAP-sponsored insurance premiums, please send your May or June statements to your case manager or FBS as soon as you receive them.

If you are enrolled in Delta Dental through your case management agency and receive any bills, premium notices, or letters, please forward them to your case manager ASAP!

## Ways to Connect

Spring 2024

### UIHC's Support Group for People Living with HIV

Consider joining UIHC's Support Group for People Living with HIV. We are focused on connecting with others. Share experiences, resources, coping strategies, or just chat to get to know others.

**Who:** Kari Vrbán, LMSW hosts a virtual group for those living with HIV

**What:** a monthly meeting for connecting with others who may share experiences

**When:** First Wednesday of the month from 4:00-5:30pm

**Where:** online for now

**How:** contact Kari Vrbán to register. (319) 467-5655 or [kari-vrbán@uiowa.edu](mailto:kari-vrbán@uiowa.edu)



### 2024 MONTHLY MEETINGS

Fourth Thursday of each month via Zoom.

MAY 23  
JUNE 27  
JULY 25  
AUGUST 22  
SEPTEMBER 26  
OCTOBER 24  
NOVEMBER 21  
DECEMBER 19

Register now at [pitchiowa.com](https://pitchiowa.com)



Interested in joining a book club for people living with HIV and their supports? Fill out the interest form here:

<https://tinyurl.com/hamzytsu>

## Community Resources

### Johnson County SEATS Rural Transportation

**(319)339-6128 / [www.johnsoncountyiowa.org.gov/seats](http://www.johnsoncountyiowa.org.gov/seats)**

Available Monday—Friday 7:00am—5:00pm. No application is required for rural riders. Rides can be scheduled up to 2 weeks to 2 days in advance, the more notice the better. Rural trips are approved based on vehicle and driver availability. SEATS vehicles are wheelchair accessible. Upon making a request the SEATS dispatcher will give you a 30-minute pick-up window that you will be picked up within.

Call the Scheduling Line (319)339-6125; answered 7AM-12PM and 1-4PM Monday-Friday and Saturday from 8AM-12PM. For same day rides (not guaranteed) call (319) 339-6127.

SEATS one-way fare is \$2.00. Riders are currently being billed for trips at the end of the month.



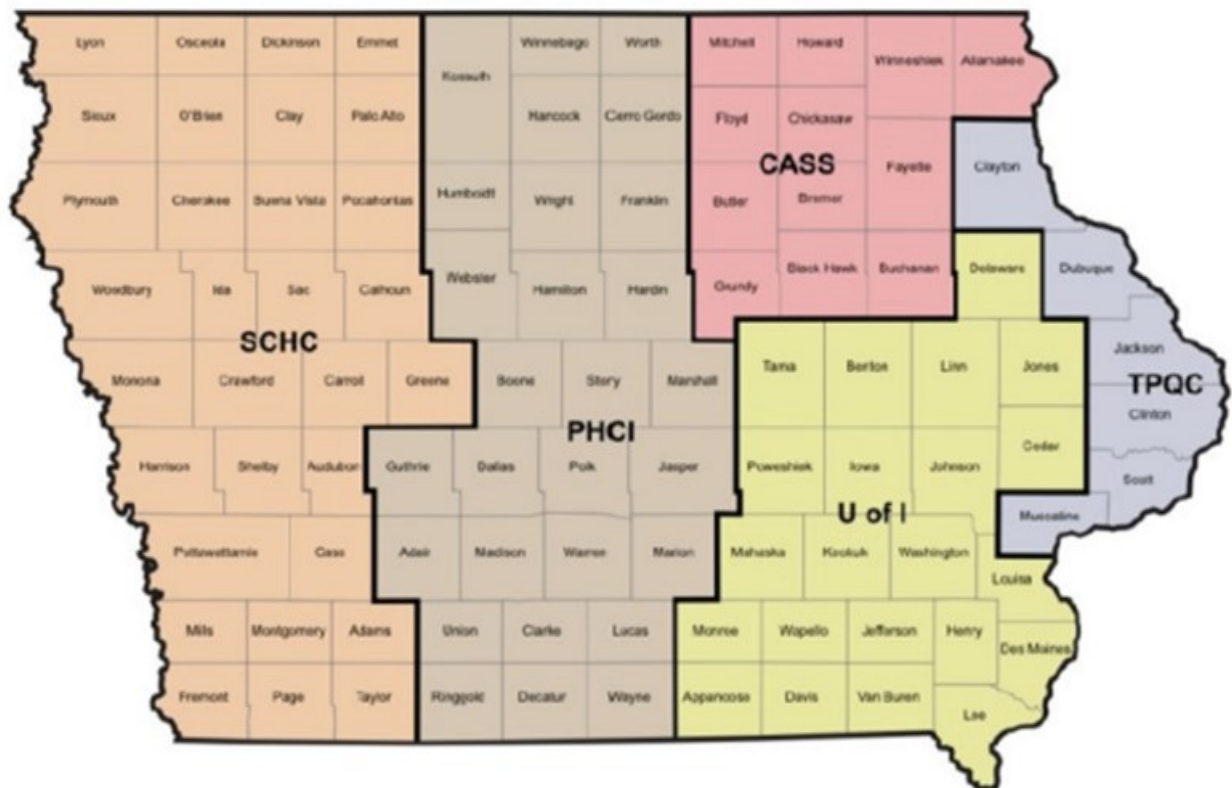
### DEA National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day collection site locator is now available, allowing consumers to search for a nearby location to dispose of unneeded, unwanted, or expired medications on **Saturday, April 27, 2024**. On this day from 10 AM to 2 PM, thousands of DEA-coordinated collection sites will be available across the country, and consumers are encouraged to use this unique opportunity to safely and legally dispose of any unneeded medications, including prescription painkillers and other controlled substance medications, which can only be accepted for disposal when law enforcement is present. The take-back service is free and anonymous, with no questions asked. Search for a site in your community at <https://www.dea.gov/takebackday>

Also note that the **UIHC Ambulatory Care Pharmacies** permanently host **MedSafe drug collection bins** for the safe disposal of unwanted medications (including controlled substance medications in Schedules II, III, IV, V) by the patient or patient's legal representative. These bins are currently operating in the following UI Health Care Ambulatory Pharmacy locations: **General Hospital and Pomerantz Level II**.

If you have unopened, unexpired prescription medication, please ask to speak to a pharmacist at your next visit if you're interested in donating this medication to the state's free medication repository.

## HOPWA



### **HOPWA (Housing Opportunity for People with AIDS)**

Are you in need of financial assistance to get or maintain housing? You may be eligible for services provided by HOPWA such as Long-Term Rental Assistance, Short-Term Rent, Mortgage and Utility Assistance, or Permanent Housing Placement. Eligibility is based on your income and limits vary by county. Please direct questions to Viri Estudillo at 319-353-8951 or [viridiana-estudillo@uiowa.edu](mailto:viridiana-estudillo@uiowa.edu)





# YOU'RE INVITED!

Do you identify as transgender, gender non-conforming, or otherwise gender diverse?  
Have you ever been diagnosed with cancer?

We want to hear from you!

The Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at UIHC is conducting a study to learn about the health-care experiences of gender-diverse cancer patients. Our goal is to improve healthcare for future patients like you. Individuals who agree to participate will conduct a 60 minute interview with a member of the research team and receive a \$75 e-voucher for volunteering their time, their story, and their perspective.

**1**

Confirm your eligibility  
to participate

**2**

Complete a 1 hr  
interview

**3**

Receive \$75 for sharing  
your experience and  
time

Questions?  
Contact our research team!

[ccom-tgdcancercare@uiowa.edu](mailto:ccom-tgdcancercare@uiowa.edu)

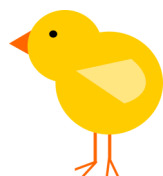


Scan me to read more information  
about our study and confirm your eligibility!

Funded by the UI Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center  
Principal Investigator: Aaron Seaman, PhD  
Co-Principal Investigator: Levi Doyle, BS



## Behind the Scenes



Are you new to clinic? Have you called in looking for a case management agency? Chances are good that you've spoken to our administrative services coordinator, Ashley Brennan!

Ashley just celebrated one year with our program. She has jumped in and soaked up all there is to know about our program and learn from existing staff and colleagues. Ashley has been praised by referring agencies as she keeps them informed when their clients are scheduled, miss appointments, etc. Ashley has been instrumental in managing phone calls and connecting patients to the right place so their treatment needs don't fall through the cracks.

In Ashley's "spare" time, she loves to be involved at the Fraternal Order of the Eagles raising money for various charities because their motto of "people helping people" aligns with her core values.

We are so fortunate to have Ashley on our team!

## Data Corner

We have carefully kept track of our more than 2,740 patients' health care needs and outcomes since opening the clinic in 1988. It's humbling to see how devastating HIV and AIDS were in the 80s and 90s, though a small number of people are still in clinic from that period despite the lack of medications. It is really great to see that, though the number of people receiving care in our clinic continues to grow, our patients are living longer, fuller lives through their dedication to their own health and the medical breakthroughs since the early days of the epidemic. Over the past year, 97.3% of our patients have a suppressed viral load with improved health. Further, through our fantastic team, we've been able to help patients find insurance if they aren't eligible for Medicare, Medicaid or employee sponsored insurance and currently more than 97 percent of our patients also have some kind of outside payor to help defray medical costs. While we still have miles to go before we're able to end the HIV epidemic in Iowa, we are getting closer and closer, one step at a time.

Spring 2024

## Contact Us!



Tricia Kroll	Program Manager, Case Manager	319 384 7307	tricia-kroll@uiowa.edu
Malory Dreaser	Case Manager	319 356 1545	malory-dreaser@uiowa.edu
Kari Vrbanc	Behavioral Health Consultant, Case Manager	319 467 5655	kari-vrbanc@uiowa.edu
Viri Estudillo Gil	HOPWA Manager, Case Manager	319 353 8951	viridiana-estudillo@uiowa.edu
Lisa Dye	Case Manager	319 335 7309	lisa-dye@uiowa.edu
Megan Mineart	Case Manager	319 335 7218	megan-mineart@uiowa.edu
Mike Lawler	Case Manager	319 335 7449	michael-j-lawler@uiowa.edu
Eliza Rose	Field Benefits Specialist	319 467 5662	deros@uiowa.edu
Rina Chaudhary	Clinical Trial/Grant Specialist	319 335 7437	rina-chaudhary@uiowa.edu
Mike Bates	Data Quality Manager	319 335 7442	michael-c-bates@uiowa.edu
Ashley Brennan	Administrative Services Coordinator	319 335 7520	ashley-brennan-1@uiowa.edu