

Framing and objectives

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*Optimizing a client's first six months on ART:
Differentiated service delivery models to promote
early retention in care*

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Rationale

- Loss from care is highest in first 6 months, but current DSD models systematically *exclude* patients on ART < 6 months (or even <12 months)
- We have made progress toward optimizing the process of ART initiation and achieving long-term retention in care
- **Optimizing the delivery of care during the first six months is an obvious next challenge**
 - Little change in the past decade, despite "treat all" and better regimens; haven't reduced the logistical burden of treatment on patients during the first six months, when they might need it most.
 - Know little about importance of clinical or social interactions during this time period or their impact on outcomes

Objectives

- Design one or more models for the first six months after ART initiation that aim to:
 - Maximize retention in care and/or viral suppression during the first 6 months on ART
 - Create conditions that will maximize long-term retention in care/suppression
 - Minimize time from ART initiation to viral suppression/meeting definition of stability
 - Reduce burden on patients and providers
 - Improve the experience of the first six months on treatment for patients and providers

Baseline

Assumptions:

- Continued increase in baseline CD4 counts, but with a substantial minority ($\approx 10-20\%$) continuing to present with advanced disease
- Increasing proportion of re-initiators (decreasing proportion of ART-naïve initiators)
- Further scale-up of “low intensity” DSD models for stable patients

Constraints:

- Existing infrastructure and staff (quantity, quality, and distribution)
- Existing management and implementation capacity
- Flat-lined resource availability per patient

Goal

- Imagine that we have a blank slate, can design any models we want to optimize the first six months of care, *subject to the constraints on the previous slide*
- Come away from the meeting with ideas that could be implemented and evaluated under current conditions (or at least a plan to have ideas)