

HIV Infection in Wisconsin: State and National Resources for Clinicians and Patients

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ABSTRACT

The authors review state and national resources for clinicians and patients regarding HIV infection, highlighting pertinent resources in the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program as well as select local and national resources.

INTRODUCTION

A diagnosis of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) can challenge the resourcefulness of clinicians and patients. Because HIV disease and the life issues faced by many persons with HIV disease are complex, clinicians and patients rely on a variety of resources to address the needs of persons with HIV disease. The article reviews local, state and national resources that can assist clinicians and patients in addressing the challenges of HIV disease.

Resources useful for clinicians and patients are available at local, regional, state and national levels. Various state agencies manage health programs benefiting persons with HIV infection. The Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program in the Division of Public Health (Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services) is the lead state agency responsible for coordinating Wisconsin's public health response to the HIV epidemic. At local and regional levels, AIDS service organizations (ASOs) and other agencies provide direct client services such as HIV counseling and

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testing, early intervention, case management, housing assistance, legal services, prevention education, prevention case management, targeted risk reduction services and a variety of other services. Other agencies in Wisconsin and throughout the nation provide medical consultation, clinician education, and various consumer information and referral services.

Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program Resources: The Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program oversees various programs and activities, including epidemiologic surveillance and investigation, partner counseling and referral services, drug and insurance benefit programs for persons with HIV disease, and grant programs for care, treatment, and prevention services.

HIV Surveillance and Epidemiologic Program: The HIV Surveillance and Epidemiologic Investigation Program in the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program monitors reported cases of HIV infection and AIDS. It compiles epidemiologic information and actively solicits case reports through established contacts with laboratories, clinicians, health care facilities, state correctional facilities, military entrance processing stations, and through a variety of other mechanisms. A comprehensive HIV surveillance system assists in measuring and monitoring the impact of HIV and AIDS in terms of disease incidence and mortality. Much of HIV surveillance focuses on case findings. This provides the data upon which other activities (trend analysis, partner notification, early intervention and prevention activities) are based.

HIV Counseling and Testing: HIV counseling and testing services are critically important in the early identification of HIV infection, in accessing HIV positive persons to needed health and support services, and in providing HIV prevention counseling services to persons at risk for HIV infection.

HIV testing occurs in a variety of settings in Wisconsin, including medical clinics, hospitals and publicly funded counseling and testing sites. Primary care providers play a key role in the diagnosis and management of HIV infection in Wisconsin. Approximately

80% of HIV infections in Wisconsin are identified by physicians in the private sector. The Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program has published guidelines for HIV testing and to support the role of primary care clinicians in the early identification of HIV infection.^{1,2}

Universal counseling and voluntary HIV testing of pregnant women is now a standard of clinical practice and has been a priority for the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program and the federal government for several years. In 1994, the National Institutes of Health AIDS Clinical Trial 076 demonstrated that AZT (zidovudine) could reduce perinatal HIV transmission from some infected women to their newborn infants by as much as two-thirds. In response, the CDC, the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program, and affiliated partners (Statewide Workgroup on HIV Education and Testing in the Perinatal Period) under the auspices of the Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care (WAPC) released recommendations and guidelines highlighting the importance of HIV counseling and voluntary testing for all pregnant women.^{3,4,5} The Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program contracted with the WAPC and the Wisconsin HIV Primary Care Support Network, located at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and the Medical College of Wisconsin, to conduct statewide training of prenatal care providers on HIV counseling and testing of pregnant women. The Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program developed education materials for providers and consumers, including consumer prenatal HIV education brochures published in English, Spanish and Hmong. Information on the availability of professional educational materials and/or consumer prenatal HIV education brochures can be obtained from the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program at 608-267-5287. The federal Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has also developed prenatal HIV educational materials for consumers and health care providers. Information on HCFA materials can be obtained from the HCFA Internet web site at <http://www.hcfa.gov/hiv>.

For clients who are high risk for HIV infection and would not otherwise receive HIV testing through a primary care provider, the Wisconsin Division of Public Health subsidizes HIV testing at designated counseling and testing sites. This testing occurs in local health departments, STD clinics, family planning agencies, tribal health clinics, community health centers, AIDS service organizations and other private nonprofit agencies. Clients receive risk assessment, personalized risk reduction education, free or low-cost testing, and referral for medical and supportive services. Information on the location of publicly funded HIV counseling and testing sites is available through the Wisconsin AIDSline at 800-334-AIDS (toll-free) or

273-AIDS (in Milwaukee) and the Internet web site of the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program listed below.

Wisconsin Partner Counseling and Referral Services Program: Since its inception in 1988, HIV Partner Counseling and Referral Services (PCRS), formerly known as Partner Notification, has been an important prevention strategy. PCRS offers persons with HIV disease an opportunity to meet with a public health professional to obtain counseling; assistance with the notification of sexual and needle-sharing partners without disclosing the identity of the infected partner; access to free, voluntary and confidential counseling; and referral for medical care, case management and support and other related services.

An attempt is made by PCRS state or local health department staff to contact and counsel each individual with HIV infection or AIDS who is reported to the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program. Cases are assigned to the PCRS staff person (counselor) in the health department that has jurisdiction in the community where the person with HIV disease resides. PCRS staff have 90 days to initiate, interview, counsel, notify and test partners, assess TB status, and close newly assigned cases.

During a partner notification meeting, which may last 30 minutes to an hour, the PCRS counselor informs the partner he/she has had contact with an individual who is HIV antibody positive. The counselor provides the partner with information on HIV/AIDS and risk reduction, and strongly encourages and offers immediate ("field-based") HIV antibody testing.

Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Drug Reimbursement Program: The Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Drug Reimbursement Program (ADRP), authorized by Wisconsin statutes, is designed to maintain the health and independence of persons living with HIV infection in Wisconsin by providing access to antiretroviral drugs and HIV-related prophylactic medications.

To be eligible to receive benefits under the ADRP, an individual must:

- live in Wisconsin;
- have HIV infection, confirmed by a physician
- have no or insufficient third party payment; and
- have a family income that does not exceed 200% of the federal poverty guideline.

ADRP applications are available statewide through AIDS service organizations, community-based organizations and the offices of physicians specializing in the treatment of HIV disease. Completed applications are mailed to the ADRP at the Division of Public Health (DPH) for eligibility screening. The ADRP sends

eligibility approval letters to the client and the client-selected pharmacy. The pharmacy receives both the approval letter and the physician's prescription for ADRP drugs. The designated pharmacy dispenses a 30-day supply of approved medications to the client and submits billing for these prescriptions to the ADRP.

The ADRP attempts to ensure that all FDA approved HIV-related antiretrovirals and HIV-related prophylactic medications are reviewed and carefully considered for inclusion in ADRP by a panel of physicians and the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services. The ADRP currently covers the 15 HIV antiretroviral drugs and 19 HIV-related prophylactic medications (Table 1) and monitors the formulary to ensure consistency with current standards of HIV care.

Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Health Insurance Premium Subsidy Program: The AIDS/HIV Health Insurance Premium Subsidy Program helps persons with HIV maintain access to health insurance when they reduce their work hours, take unpaid medical leave or terminate employment. The program does this by subsidizing (covering all or part of the cost of) policy premiums. The program began in state fiscal year (SFY) 1991 and is currently authorized under Wisconsin statute ss. 252.16 & 252.17. To be eligible, an individual must:

- live in Wisconsin;
- have family income that does not exceed 300% of the federal poverty guideline;
- have a doctor certify that the individual has HIV infection and had to quit work, reduce work hours or take an unpaid medical leave from employment due to an HIV-related medical condition;
- have or be eligible for health insurance coverage under a group health plan or an individual health plan.

Individuals with income between 201% and 300% of poverty are required to cover 3% of the cost of their annual premium.

The program subsidizes premiums for group health continuation coverage, Medicare supplement policies and individual policies. To apply for the program, clients typically work with case managers who are located at AIDS service organizations throughout Wisconsin. The case managers assist clients in completing the program application and then forward the application on to the Premium Subsidy Program staff. If the client meets the program eligibility requirements, their employer and/or insurance company is contacted to set up payment of the client's monthly insurance premium.

Table 1. Wisconsin AIDS Drug Reimbursement Program (ADRP) Formulary (as of January 1, 2000)

<i>Antiretrovirals</i>	<i>Other HIV-Related Medications</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AZT (Retrovir, zidovudine) • abacavir (Ziagen) • amprenavir (Agenerase) • combivir (zidovudine+lamivudine) • ddl (Videx, didanosine) • ddC (HIVID, zalcitabine) • d4T (Zerit, stavudine) • delavirdine (Rescriptor) • efavirenz (Sustiva) • indinavir (Crixivan) • lamivudine (EpiVir, 3TC) • nelfinavir (Viracept) • nevirapine (Viramune) • ritonavir (Norvir) • saquinavir (Fortovase, InVirase) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acyclovir (Zovirax) • amphotericin B (Fungizone) • atovaquone (Mepron) • azithromycin (Zithromax) • clarithromycin (Biaxin) • clindamycin (Cleocin) • Dapsone • fluconazole (Diflucan) • ganciclovir (Cytovene) • ganciclovir implant (Vitrasert) • hydroxyurea (Hydrea) • itraconazole (Sporanox) • ketoconazole (Nizoral) • leucovorin (Vvelcovorin) • pentamidine (Nebupent) • pyrimethamine (Daraprim) • rifabutin (Mycobutin) • sulfadiazine (Sulfadiazine Tablets) • TMP/SMX (Bactrim, Septra)

The Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program maintains an Internet web site with descriptive summaries of activities overseen and coordinated by the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program; quarterly HIV surveillance and other epidemiologic reports; information on national, state, regional, and local resources; a calendar of events; and links to other national, state regional and local Internet-based information resources. The address of the AIDS/HIV Program's web site is <http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/AIDS-HIV/index.htm>.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL RESOURCES

Wisconsin AIDS Service Organizations and Community-Based Organizations: Since 1986, a statewide network of AIDS service organizations (ASOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) have been funded by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services to address HIV-related prevention and case management needs of Wisconsin residents. Funds administered by the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program and contracted to ASOs and CBOs support local agencies in conducting activities in the areas of prevention education and risk reduction services, life care services and early intervention and Ryan White consortia. ASO office locations and contact information are listed in Table 2.

Prevention Education and Risk Reduction activities target individuals and communities at risk for acquiring or transmitting HIV. Examples of targeted groups include men who have sex with men, injection and other drug users, adolescents, communities of color, women in poverty, HIV positive persons and incarcer-

Table 2. Regional offices of designated Wisconsin AIDS service organizations

<p>Northern Region AIDS Resource Center of WI 1105 Grand Ave, Suite 3 Schofield, WI 54476 715.355.6867 FAX 715.355.7684</p>	<p>Southern Region AIDS Network 600 Williamson St Madison, WI 53703 608.252.6540 800.486.6276 FAX 608.252.6559</p>
<p>Northeastern Region AIDS Resource Center of WI 824 S Broadway St Green Bay, WI 54304 920.437.7400 800.675.9400 FAX 920.437.1040</p>	<p>AIDS Network 101 Milwaukee St, #96 Janesville, WI 53545 608.756.2550 800.486.6276 FAX 608.756.2545</p>
<p>AIDS Resource Center of WI 120 N Morrison St, Suite 201 Appleton, WI 54911 920.733.2068 800.773.2068 FAX 920.733.7786</p>	<p>AIDS Network 830 Broad St Beloit, WI 53511 608.756.2550 608.364.4027 800.426.6276</p>
<p>Western Region AIDS Resource Center of WI 505 Dewey St, South Suite 107 Eau Claire, WI 54701 715.836.7710 800.750.2437 FAX 715.836.9844</p>	<p>Southeastern Region AIDS Resource Center of WI 820 N Plankinton Ave Milwaukee, WI 53203 414.273.1991 800.359.9272 FAX 414.273.2357</p>
<p>AIDS Resource Center of WI Grandview Center 1707 Main St, Suite 420 La Crosse, WI 54601 608.785.9866 FAX 608.784.6661</p>	<p>AIDS Resource Center of WI 1212 57th St Kenosha, WI 53140 414.657.6644 800.924.6601 FAX 414.657.6949</p>
<p>AIDS Resource Center of WI Board of Trade Building 1507 Tower Ave, Suite 230 Superior, WI 54880 715.394.4009 877.242.0282 (toll free) FAX 715.394.4066</p>	



ated individuals. Prevention education focuses on maintaining and sustaining positive health behaviors.

Life Care Services are provided through a network of AIDS service and community-based organizations that coordinate case management for persons with HIV infection. Staff provide support services to infected persons, their friends, family members, and care providers. The *Early Intervention Program* provides persons recently diagnosed with HIV infection prompt and early access to needed medical care and related services.

AIDS service and community-based organizations also provide services supported with federal Ryan White CARE Act funds. These include housing assistance, legal services, emergency financial assistance, benefits counseling, dental care, mental health services, respite care, transportation, bilingual/bicultural services, health care for indigent clients, food pantry services, nutrition education, and nursing case management. Additional program activities are supported with a variety of other state, federal, and private funds and include programs for disabled persons to return to work.

Wisconsin HIV Primary Care Support Network: The Wisconsin HIV Primary Care Support Network is a collaborative effort between Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Medical College of Wisconsin, Marshfield Clinic and University of Wisconsin Children's Hospital. The primary focus of the Support Network are families of children, adolescents and women with HIV disease. A team of physicians, nurses, and social workers support local health care providers in delivering comprehensive, culturally-competent, family-centered, coordinated care in a family's home community. Network staff provide education and training, assistance with care coordination, and ongoing consultation to health care providers. For more information, contact the Wisconsin HIV Primary Care Support Network at 414.456.4162.

Wisconsin AIDS Research Consortium: The Wisconsin AIDS Research Consortium (WARC) is a statewide HIV/AIDS research organization dedicated to providing access to clinical drug trials for people with HIV throughout Wisconsin. WARC is composed of Wisconsin's leading HIV/AIDS physicians and experienced clinical staff. The Consortium works with physicians throughout Wisconsin in order to make clinical drug trials directly accessible in both urban and rural areas. For further information, contact WARC at 1.800.359.9272 extension 248 or 414.225.1548 or visit the WARC Internet web site at <http://www.arcw.org/Research/index.html>.

Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center-Wisconsin Site: The Wisconsin site of the Midwest AIDS Training and Education Center (MATEC)

provides HIV-related education and training to health professionals through conferences, seminars, preceptorship programs and educational activities. It is a joint project between the University of Wisconsin Medical School and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and is part of a midwest regional network of educational and training programs for health professionals coordinated by the University of Illinois in Chicago. For more information on MATEC activities and resources in Wisconsin, contact Theresa Lenaghan at 608.258.9103 ext. 15 or visit the MATEC Internet web site at <http://www.arcw.org/TrainingEducation/MATEC/index.html>.

Wisconsin AIDS Library: The Wisconsin AIDS Library, located at the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, is a statewide resource for HIV and AIDS information. The Library has a collection of over 1,000 books, periodicals, videos, and an extensive clipping file on a wide range of topics related to HIV and AIDS. Many library materials can be obtained by mail and requests for online research can be made by telephone. To contact the Wisconsin AIDS Library, call 800.359.9272, ext. 239 or 414.225.1539 in Milwaukee.

Wisconsin AIDSline: The Wisconsin AIDSline is a toll-free service that offers quick answers to questions relating to HIV and AIDS. The line is staffed by adult volunteers during business hours Monday through Friday and is forwarded to the National Sexually Transmitted Disease Hotline during evenings and weekends. The Wisconsin AIDSline phone numbers are 800.334.AIDS (toll-free) or 414.273.AIDS.

Wisconsin Educational Resources: In addition to the prevention education resources in ASOs and CBOs, local chapters of the American Red Cross have print and video educational materials and can assist in locating speakers to address community groups. The yellow pages of local phone directories contain phone numbers of local chapters of the American Red Cross. The local Cooperative Educational Service (CESA) office of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (608.266.0963) has information regarding school curricula and materials for educating children and adolescents.

SELECT NATIONAL INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SOURCES

AIDS Treatment Information Service: The HIV/AIDS Treatment Information Service (ATIS) is a federally supported information clearinghouse that serves as a repository for federally-approved treatment guidelines for HIV and AIDS. ATIS is staffed by multilingual health information specialists who answer questions on HIV treatment options using a network of federal, national, and community-based information

resources. Contact ATIS at 1.800.448.0440 or the ATIS Internet web site at <http://www.hivatis.org>.

AIDS Clinical Trials Information Service (ACTIS): ACTIS is a federally sponsored agency that provides current information on federal and private sponsored clinical drug trials for persons with AIDS and HIV infection. Contact information: 1.800.874.2572 (toll-free phone); 1.888.480.3739 (toll-free TTY); <http://www.actis.org> (Internet web site).

CDC - Division of HIV-AIDS Prevention (DHAP): The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of HIV-AIDS Prevention (DHAP) is CDC's lead agency responsible for coordinating and directing HIV/AIDS prevention and surveillance programs and activities. DHAP's Internet site includes: basic HIV/AIDS-related statistics; conference information; funding opportunities, consumer-oriented health information, links to other sites; media campaign materials; publications and other resources, slides and graphics; and training information. This site includes AIDS/HIV-related reprints from the MMWR and access to the AIDS Daily News Summaries through the National Prevention Information Network. See DHAP's Internet web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/dhap.htm>.

CDC National Prevention Information Network (NPIN) The National Prevention Information Network (NPIN) is the information clearinghouse on HIV/AIDS, STD, and TB resources and information. It is sponsored by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and includes databases on organizations, educational materials, funding opportunities, news from scientific journals and the general media, conferences, periodicals and federal press releases. Contact NPIN at 800.458.5231 (telephone); 800.243.7012 (TDD); Internet web site: <http://www.cdcpin.org>.

OTHER RESOURCES

For additional information and Internet links to a broad variety of resources, visit the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program's Internet web page containing links to other national and local resources:

<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/aids-hiv/Links/AIDS-HIV-Links.htm>

Further Information Regarding Resources In The Wisconsin Aids/HIV Program

Additional information on resources in the Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program is available through the following contacts:

Program Direction
James M. Vergeront, MD: 608.267.5287

Care and Treatment Programs
Michael McFadden: 608.266.0682

Case Surveillance and Reporting
Jeannie Druckenmiller: 608.266.2664

Consumer and Professional Information Resources
Bill Reiser: 608.266.3073

Counseling and Testing
Kathleen Krchnavek: 608.267.3583

Drug Reimbursement Program
Janice Lipsey 608.261.6952; 1.800.991.5532

Epidemiology
Neil Hoxie: 608.266.0998

Insurance Premium Subsidy Program
Janice Lipsey: 608.261.6952; 1.800.991.5532

Life Care Services
Gail Nahwahquaw: 608.266.1122

Partner Counseling and Referral Services
Denise Johnson: 608.267.5288

Prevention Programs
Tatiana Dierwechter: 608.264.6514

Prevention Evaluation
Mari Gasiorowicz: 608.267.9489

Prevention Community Planning
Molly Herrmann: 608.267.6730

Prevention in Communities of Color
Karen Johnson: 608.266.1808

Ryan White Consortia & Early Intervention Services
Sheila Guilfoyle: 608.266.0749

Central Number for General Information
608.267.5287

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