



HIV Treatment for all: Get on. Stay on. Live on

In June 2016, The Ministry of Health and Child Care, with technical assistance from the Organisation for Public Health Interventions and Development (OPHID), unveiled the Treat All program. There is no more waiting to get on treatment for anyone who tests HIV positive. OPHID's Families and Communities for the Elimination of HIV (FACE HIV) is leading the implementation of the Treat All initiative, with support from the U.S President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). All **Hospitals, Clinics and Rural Health Centres in Gwanda, Bulilima and Mangwe districts** now offer HIV Care and Treatment services to all People Living with HIV, encouraging them to **get in care, start taking their Antiretroviral medicines and adhere to treatment**. All PLHIV who have stopped taking Antiretroviral medicines (ARVs) are being encouraged to **come back to care**.

Why Treat All?

There is increasing evidence that earlier Antiretroviral (ART) initiation reduces HIV transmission, HIV related illnesses and deaths. Studies have shown that early linkage to and staying in HIV care are central to managing HIV and promoting health among all people living with HIV. ART reduces the amount of virus in blood and body fluids. It can keep people with HIV healthy for many years, and adhering to treatment greatly reduces the chance of transmitting HIV to sex partners (World Health Organisation, 2015).

Who can benefit from the Treat All Initiative?

- Everyone newly diagnosed HIV positive
- Anyone who is HIV positive and has been in Pre-ART care (previously not eligible for ART)
- Everyone with a confirmed HIV positive status but never been in Pre-ART care, and not yet on ART.
- Everyone who has been on ART before and stopped taking the HIV treatment (defaulted)

What Actions should be taken?

- Anyone who falls in the above categories should **visit their nearest clinic/hospital today and get information about starting HIV treatment**
- Tell a friend or relative who can benefit from this initiative

About the OPHID- FACE HIV Program

The FACE HIV program collaborates with the Ministry of Health and Child Care to reduce new HIV infections, HIV related illnesses and deaths, and improve the quality of life among all People Living with HIV. OPHID and the MOHCC are committed to ensure that every Person Living with HIV **know their HIV status, access and adhere to HIV treatment and achieve viral suppression by 2020**.

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