

PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH

A Brief Safer-Sex Intervention in HIV Clinics FACT SHEET

Program Overview

Partnership for Health (PfH) uses message framing, repetition, and reinforcement during patient visits to increase HIV positive patients' knowledge, skills, and motivations to practice safer sex. The program is designed to improve patient-provider communication about safer sex, disclosure of HIV serostatus, and HIV prevention. Implementation of PfH includes development of clinic and staff "buy-in" and training.

Core Elements

Core elements of PfH include:

- Providers delivering the intervention to HIV-positive patients in HIV outpatient clinics;
- The clinic adopting prevention as an essential component of patient care;
- All clinic staff trained to facilitate prevention counseling into standard practice;
- Waiting room posters and brochures used to reinforce prevention messages delivered by the provider;
- Supportive relationships built and maintained between the patient and the provider;
- During routine visits, the provider initiates at least a 3- to 5-minute discussion with the patient on protection, partner protection, and disclosure;
- The provider incorporates good communication techniques and use of consequences-framed messages for patients or clients engaged in high risk sexual behavior;
- Referrals provided for needs that require more extensive counseling and services; and
- The prevention message integrated into clinic visits so that every patient is counseled at every visit.

Target Population

PfH targets HIV-positive patients.

Program Materials

The intervention materials that are used to build and maintain supportive relationships between the provider and patient include: exam and waiting room posters, informational flyers, brochures, provider pocket guides, and medical chart stickers to document counseling.

Program Fundamentals

- 4 to 6 months start-up period
- On-site Coordinator (half-time during start-up, quarter-time thereafter)
- ½ day training of all clinic staff
- Orientation and booster training(s)
- Ongoing communications to patients
- Program monitoring and evaluation

Research Results

Patients who had two or more sex partners or at least one casual partner and who received consequences-framed messages were:

- Significantly less likely to engage in unprotected anal or vaginal sex

For More Information on Partnership for Health

Please contact AED at interventions@aed.org with "Request for PfH Training or Information" in the subject line. Be sure to include your (name, title, organization, address, phone, email). Or you may call (800) 462-9521/ (202) 884-8712. Training is specifically for HIV clinics who can deliver/participate in the Program Fundamentals listed above. To request technical assistance on PfH, please contact Daniel Casillas, Univ. of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at (214) 645-7327 or Daniel.Casillas@UTSouthwestern.edu

Richardson, J.L., Milam, J., McCutchan, A., Stoyanoff, S., Bolan, R., Weiss, J., Kemper, C., Larsen, R.A., Hollander, H., Weismuller, P., Chou, C.P., Marks, G. (2004). Effect of brief safer-sex counseling by medical providers to HIV-1 seropositive patients: A multi-clinic assessment. *AIDS*, 18:1179-1186