

# Working with HIV Care Link Services to Improve Patient Health



*We provide patient-centered and confidential support to improve health outcomes*

## Who we are

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Care Link Services is a free, time-limited and confidential program that provides the following services to all Minnesotans living with HIV:

- Proactively helps newly diagnosed people to start and stay in HIV care
- Re-engage people who are not currently receiving HIV care
- Provide referrals for supportive services to address barriers to care

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### How you can help

Collaboration between providers and Care Link Services staff ensures a positive experience for patients as they engage in HIV care. Encourage your organization to become more familiar with the Care Link Services Program. We are happy to meet with you to discuss our program and explore ways to strengthen partnerships.

We need your help to provide the best possible patient care:

- Provide support to patients who are reluctant to enter HIV care
- Work with patients who have been referred by the Care Link Services program
- Encourage communication with Care Link Services staff regarding the progress of mutual patients

### The importance of HIV medical care

Linkage and retention in care is a top priority HIV prevention recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. People living with HIV who receive medical care, supportive services, and effective treatment have positive health outcomes, including viral suppression. Viral suppression significantly reduces the risk of HIV transmission to partners and leads to a longer and healthier life.

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