



NORTH GEORGIA HEALTH DISTRICT

The Living Bridge Center
1200 West Waugh Street
Dalton, GA. 30720
Website: www.nghd.org



Date Created: December 2017

Date Revised:

Title: Linkage to Care Services

Policy: The Living Bridge Center strives to support and treat all patients looking to care for their HIV disease. We understand that through proper treatment a patient's viral load can be suppressed, thereby greatly reducing the possibility of transmission to uninfected individuals. This concept is particularly important when dealing with newly infected individuals. Newly infected individuals have inherent barriers coming out of the new diagnosis. These include higher viral loads, trauma and depression and a higher likelihood to be lost to care early in their diagnosis. TLBC seeks, through its linkage to care services, to reduce or eliminate these barriers so the patient can immediately begin treating their HIV disease.

Procedure: For newly identified patients tested by TLBC prevention staff:

- All newly diagnosed patients will be provided with in-take appointment on the day of notification,
- All newly identified patients will have their first in-take appointment with the TLBC Intensive Nurse Case Manager,
- All newly identified patients will have their initial medical appointment made on the day of their in-take appointment with the Intensive Nurse Case Manager,
- Baseline labs will be ordered on the day of the first in-take appointment, in order to have a baseline health status available for the physician at the patient's first medical appointment,
- All newly identified patients will be followed closely by the Intensive Nurse Case Manager for the first year of infection,
- Once deemed stable and fully engaged in services by the Intensive Nurse Case Manager, the newly identified patient will be moved to a regular nurse case manager's patient role.

For newly identified patients tested by other public health/private medical offices in the District:

- All newly diagnosed patients will be provided with the contact information for TLBC on the day of notification,
- Notification of newly identified patient will be provided by testing agency/staff to TLBC on the day of the first positive test result,
- If newly identified patient does not contact the clinic within three days, clinic staff (prevention staff and/or Intensive Case Management Nurse) will initiate contact with patient.



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*Cherokee: Canton (770) 345-7371 / Woodstock (770) 928-0133 Gilmer (706) 635-4363 Pickens (706) 253-2821
Fannin (706) 632-3023 Murray (706) 695-4585 Whitfield (706) 279-9600*

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- All newly identified patients will have their initial medical appointment made on the day of their in-take appointment with the Intensive Nurse Case Manager,
- Baseline labs will be ordered on the day of the first in-take appointment, in order to have a baseline health status available for the physician at the patient's first medical appointment,
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