

Appendix E. Rapid Start Clinical Site Checklist

The goal of Rapid Start is to provide immediate ART to clients with HIV at the time of diagnosis (same day if possible) or within 7 days. Everyone in your clinic plays a key role in making this program work.

Is your clinic ready to offer Rapid Start?

1. **Front-desk staff** are familiar with Rapid Start, are aware that it is provided, understand the time sensitivity of the visit, and are able to triage patient calls and visits accordingly.
2. **Clinical staff** have received training on prescribing rapid/immediate ART.
 - A. **Prescribers and nursing staff** are familiar with the Rapid Start Standard Operating Procedures in order to properly prescribe Rapid Start and counsel patients about Rapid Start treatment.

During a Rapid Start visit, providers should do the following:

 - i. HIV history
 - ii. Medical history
 - iii. Laboratory tests
 - iv. ART counseling on the risks and benefits of immediate ART
 - v. Initiation of immediate ART
 - B. **Social workers, navigators, and counselors** (or other members of the team) can provide psychological counseling and assist patients in navigating insurance coverage and access to other benefits, if necessary.

During a Rapid Start visit, the following issues also need to be considered:

 - i. Insurance navigation if needed (if navigation cannot be done by on-site staff, patient may need immediate referral to an outside navigator)
 - ii. Socioeconomic (i.e. employment, housing, etc.) & legal issues (immigration)
 - iii. Health issues (i.e. mental health, substance abuse, etc.)
 - iv. Other persons at risk for infection (notify partner services)
 - C. **Laboratory staff** are prepared to test for HIV antibody, HIV viral load, HIV genotype, CD4+ T cell count, HLAB5701 polymorphism testing, comprehensive metabolic panel (incl. creatinine and liver function tests), RPR, HAV IgG antibody, HBsAg, HBcAb, HBsAb, and HCV antibody on the day of the initial visit. QFT/ toxoplasma IgG antibody and G6PD testing may also be considered.
3. **Participating pharmacies** are prepared to expedite 30 day prescriptions of ART (dispense on the day prescribed) and know how to process patient-assistance coupons for antiretrovirals, when needed.
4. The following **resources** are available for patients:
 - A. Educational materials
 - B. A mechanism for providing same-day ART (e.g., sample/starter packs, same-day enrollment processes for Program HH/ADAP or Medicaid, or pharmaceutical coupons for initial Rx)
 - C. A list of pharmacies that are aware of RAPID ART and can provide same-day dispensing