



Nevada Office of HIV/AIDS Ryan White Part B Program Service Standards Rapid stART Program ADAP Flex

I. Service Goals and Objectives

Rapid stART Program (RSTART)

The goal of the Rapid stART (Anti-Retroviral Therapy) program is to provide medications to newly diagnosed individuals within 30 days of their HIV diagnosis, so they may have access to anti-retroviral medication, treatment, and care.

The Rapid stART Program will consist of the following services:

- Targeted HIV Counseling and Testing (**prevention funded**)
- Linkage to Care
- Health Education
- Health and Wellness Engagement/Reengagement

II. Rapid stART Eligibility

The following eligibility criteria are specific to Rapid stART:

1. Proof of HIV within 30 days of diagnosis
2. Self-attestation for verification of Income at or below 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
3. Self-attestation for Nevada residency

When a Rapid Eligibility Determination (RED) application is completed clients are **only** eligible for services under Section IV for no more than 60 days. *For example, if a client is rapidly enrolled January 1st, they are only eligible through February 28th.*

III. Program Guidance

Clients must complete a RED application before enrolling into the Rapid stART program. Rapid stART services are provided to individuals unaware of their HIV status to link them into HIV care and treatment services. **It is a benchmark of the program that 96% of clients enrolled in the Rapid stART program must be determined universally eligible for Ryan White services before Rapid stART eligibility lapses.** This benchmark is in place to ensure that most Rapid stART clients are linked into the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) to provide continued access and adherence to HIV medications along with other needed services.

The State of Nevada, ADAP recommends that all sub-recipients utilize validated best practices for the execution of their program. It is an expectation that all sub-recipients implement a program that can have measurable positive effects for clients.



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IV. Currently Funded Rapid stART Services

The following eligibility criteria are specific to Rapid stART Services:

- A. HIV Care (RSTART)
Diagnostic and therapeutic services provided directly to a client by a licensed healthcare provider in an outpatient medical setting. Outpatient medical settings include clinics, medical offices, and mobile vans where clients do not stay overnight. Limitations: **Emergency room, urgent care services, or ambulance services are NOT considered outpatient settings; therefore, services cannot be reimbursed.**
- B. Linkage to Care (RSTART)
Linkage activities assist the clients in accessing core and support services including making appointments for the following indicated categories: Outpatient ambulatory health services, medical case management, non-medical case management, mental health services, etc. Linkage activities assisting the clients in accessing support services fall under this service name as well.
- C. ADAP Coordination (RSTART)
This service is to be used by staff when working with clients on ADAP services; i.e., obtaining ADAP-related documents, completion of RED application, entering client data into Ramsell PBM, coordinating with pharmacies, etc.
- D. Referral and Related Services (RSTART)
Referral and related activities are to be used by staff when providing RED eligible individuals referrals for completion of universal eligibility determination.
- E. Health and Wellness Outreach (RSTART)
This service is to be used by staff when providing clients with additional outreach and education on HIV-related services.

V. Licensing, Knowledge, Skills, and Experience

Rapid stART Program coordination and processing services must be provided by qualified individuals. The minimum educational experience for services A, B, C, D, and E shall be:



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Service A:

Medical care for persons living with HIV must be provided by licensed/credentialed healthcare professionals in an outpatient setting and treatment standards are consistent with Public Health Service (PHS) guidelines, including access to antiretroviral and other drug therapies. The provider must keep professional licensure of all staff providing clinical services including physicians, nurses, social workers, etc. If for any reason eligible candidates who do not possess the six-month experience in the HIV field, then within 12 months of hire the qualified individual must complete HIV specific training.

Service B, C, D, and E:

Linkage to Care activities, ADAP Coordination, Referrals and Related Services, Health and Wellness Outreach are provided by non-medical personnel who shall have had at least six (6) months of relevant experience in the areas of outreach work, community services, supportive work with families and individuals, aging, supportive work with youth, corrections, medical coding, or public relations. The suggested minimum educational experience shall be a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree in any of the following disciplines; psychology, social work, counseling, sociology, nursing, community health, and public health or an associate degree with three years in a related field or four years of experience working in a job related to public health. If qualified individuals do not have relevant and current experience related to working with individuals living with HIV they must receive HIV specific training within six months of hire.

Please note: Clients enrolled into the Rapid stART program may not partake in **ANY** Pharmacy Assistance Programs (PAPs) for medications on the ADAP formulary.

VI. Revision Schedule

Published	July 17, 2019	Located at https://endhivnevada.org
Revised		

VII. Contact

For further information or clarification please contact the Nevada Office of HIV, Program Officer I at (775) 684-5882, Health Program Specialist I at (775) 684-4025, or via email:

NVADAP@health.nv.gov .