

**New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute
NYLinks Measures and Timeframe Guide**

The NYLinks measures aim to monitor the progress and impact of regional efforts to improve linkage to and retention in HIV clinical care along with viral load suppression. All organizations participating in NYLinks are expected to routinely collect this data set and to report aggregate results through the data reporting web (newyorklinks.org) application every three months. Data should capture all patients/clients with a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, regardless of age or funding source of services. These data will be used to set regional priorities.

Overview of Measures

Measure	Program Type	
1. Linkage	All Programs that Conduct HIV Testing	
2A. Retention	All Programs that provide HIV clinical care	Same as LRTA and in+care Campaign
2B. New Patient Retention		
3. Clinical Engagement	All Supportive Service ¹ , General Medical ² , & Dental Providers	
4. Viral Load Suppression	All Programs that provide HIV clinical care	Same as HRSA, LRTA, RAP and eHIVQUAL

¹**Supportive Service** encompass all services offered to HIV+ clients including: case management, care coordination, early intervention, mental health, supportive counseling, food and nutrition, harm reduction, risk reduction, syringe exchange, prevention, substance use treatment, and treatment adherence services.

²**General Medical** refers to encounters with clinical providers who do not prescribe ARTs but provide primary care, such as reproductive health, STI screening, and education

When should your program report on “Supportive Service, General Medical, & Dental” measures?

All free-standing, non-HIV clinical care supportive service, general medical, and/or dental programs should report on the “Supportive Service, General Medical, & Dental” measure.

For supportive services, general medical, and/or dental services co-located within HIV clinical care, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- For HIV clinical care programs with fully integrated supportive services, general medical, and/or dental services it is NOT NECESSARY to report on the “Supportive Service, General Medical, & Dental” measures.
- For HIV clinical care programs without fully integrated supportive services, general medical, and/or dental services it IS NECESSARY to report on the “Supportive Service, General Medical, & Dental” measures.
- Lastly, if within your HIV clinical care program there are HIV+ clients who receive only supportive services, general medical, and/or dental services and not HIV clinical care services from your agency, it IS NECESSARY to report on the “Supportive Service, General Medical, & Dental” measures.

Questions regarding the NYLinks Measures or in need of technical assistance?

Please contact Steven Sawicki, steven.sawicki@health.ny.gov, who will connect you with the appropriate staff or resources.

Definitions

Measures Applicable to All Sites that Conduct HIV Testing

Including those co-located within HIV clinical care sites

1. **Linkage Measure:** Percentage of newly diagnosed patients in the reporting period who had their first HIV clinical care visit within 30 days of the date of their confirmatory HIV test result.

Measures Applicable Only to HIV Clinical Care Sites

- 2A. **Retention Measure:** Percentage of patients with at least one clinical care visit during the first 6 months of the 24-month measurement period who had at least one clinical care visit in each 6-month period of the remaining 18 months of the measurement period with a minimum of 60 days between clinical care visits.
- 2B. **New Patient Retention Measure:** Percentage of new patients who have their initial clinical care visit during the first 4 months of the 12-month measurement period who had a clinical care visit in each of the subsequent 4-month periods in the measurement period.

Measures Applicable Only to Supportive Service, General Medical, & Dental Programs

Including those co-located within HIV clinical care sites

3. **Clinical Engagement Measure:** Percentage of active HIV clients/patients with a supportive service, general medical, or dental visit during the reporting period who have a documented or self-reported HIV clinical care visit within the prior 6 months.

Measures Applicable to All Programs

4. **Viral Load Suppression:** Percentage of patients, regardless of age, with a diagnosis of HIV, with a HIV viral load less than 200 copies/mL at last HIV viral load test during the measurement year.

Measure Terminology

“**Reporting period**” is the time span used to construct the denominator for a measure. Reporting periods are measure-specific. See the measurement/reporting table under each measure.

“**Measurement period**” is the time span used to construct the numerator for a measure. Measurement periods are also measure-specific. See the measurement/reporting table under each measure.

Data Submission Deadlines

Aggregate data will be submitted every three months through http://newyorklinks.org/ny_database/. Upcoming dates:

12/01/2015	03/01/2016	06/01/2016	09/01/2016
------------	------------	------------	------------

Detailed Review of NYLinks Measures

1. LINKAGE TO CARE AMONG NEWLY DIAGNOSED PATIENTS

*Applicable to All Sites that Conduct HIV Testing
Including those co-located within HIV clinical care sites*

Measure	Percentage of newly diagnosed patients in the <u>reporting period</u> who had their first clinical care visit within 30 days of the date of their confirmatory HIV test result
Numerator	Number of newly diagnosed patients in the <u>reporting period</u> who had their first clinical care visit within 30 days of the date of their confirmatory HIV test result within the <u>measurement period</u>
Denominator	Number of newly diagnosed patients within the <u>reporting period</u>
Patient Numerator and Denominator Exclusions	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patients who are documented to be deceased at any time in the measurement period 2. Patients who relocated out of the service area in the measurement period 	
Important Definitions	
<p>A “clinical care visit” is defined as a visit with a medical provider with prescribing privileges. A “provider with prescribing privileges” is a health care professional who is licensed in their jurisdiction to prescribe ARV therapy (i.e., physician, physician assistant, and/or nurse practitioner).</p>	
Additional Note	
Linkage of a patient to another institution such as a mental health inpatient unit, inpatient drug detox program, or correctional facility would, for purposes of this measure, count as “linkage”. Ongoing efforts to assure engagement and retention or a follow-up linkage to an outpatient program are not the responsibility of the primary referring entity.	

MEASUREMENT PERIOD 4 Months			SUBMISSION DUE DATE
REPORTING PERIOD 3 months during which new diagnoses are counted (denominator)	1 month to allow linkage to clinical care		
MEASUREMENT PERIOD & REPORTING PERIOD START DATE	REPORTING PERIOD END DATE	MEASUREMENT PERIOD END DATE	
07/01/15	09/30/15	11/01/15	12/01/15
10/01/15	12/31/15	02/01/16	03/01/16
01/01/16	03/31/16	05/01/16	06/01/16
04/01/16	06/30/16	08/01/16	09/01/16
07/01/16	09/30/16	11/01/16	12/01/16
10/01/16	12/31/16	02/01/17	03/01/17
01/01/17	03/31/17	05/01/17	06/01/17
04/01/17	06/30/17	08/01/17	09/01/17

2. RETENTION IN CLINICAL CARE

2A. Retention Measure

Applicable to All Facilities that Provide HIV Clinical Care

Measure	Percentage of patients with at least one clinical care visit during the first 6 months of the 24-month measurement period, who had at least one clinical care visit in each 6-month period of the remaining 18 months of the measurement period with a minimum of 60 days between clinical care visits
Numerator	Number of patients with at least one clinical care visit during the first 6 months of the 24-month measurement period who had at least one clinical care visit in each 6-month period of the remaining 18 months of the measurement period. A minimum of 60 days between the first clinical care visit in a 6-month period and the last clinical care visit in the subsequent 6-month period is required.
Denominator	Number of patients with at least one clinical care visit during the first 6 months of the 24-month measurement period
Patient Numerator and Denominator Exclusions	
1. Patients who are documented to be deceased at any time in the measurement period	
Important Definitions	
A “clinical care visit” is defined as a visit with a medical provider with prescribing privileges. A “provider with prescribing privileges” is a health care professional who is licensed in their jurisdiction to prescribe ARV therapy (i.e., physician, physician assistant, and/or nurse practitioner).	

MEASUREMENT PERIOD 24 Months								SUBMISSION DUE DATE
REPORTING PERIOD 6-Month Period 1 During which active patients are counted (denominator)	6-Month Period 2		6-Month Period 3		6-Month Period 4			
MEASUREMENT & REPORTING PERIOD START DATE	PERIOD 1 END DATE	PERIOD 2 START DATE	PERIOD 2 END DATE	PERIOD 3 START DATE	PERIOD 3 END DATE	PERIOD 4 START DATE	MEASUREMENT PERIOD END DATE	
10/01/13	03/31/14	04/01/14	09/30/14	10/01/14	03/31/15	04/01/15	09/30/15	12/01/15
01/01/14	06/31/14	07/01/14	12/31/14	01/01/15	06/30/15	07/01/15	12/31/15	03/01/16
04/01/14	09/31/14	10/01/14	03/31/15	04/01/15	09/30/15	10/01/15	03/31/16	06/01/16
07/01/14	12/31/14	01/01/15	06/31/15	07/01/15	12/31/15	01/01/16	06/30/16	09/01/16
10/01/14	03/31/15	04/01/15	09/31/15	10/01/15	03/30/16	04/01/16	09/30/16	12/01/16
01/01/15	06/30/15	07/01/15	12/31/15	01/01/16	06/30/16	07/01/16	12/31/16	03/01/17
04/01/15	09/30/15	10/01/15	03/31/16	04/01/16	09/30/16	10/01/16	03/31/17	06/01/17
07/01/15	12/31/15	01/01/16	06/30/16	07/01/16	12/31/16	01/01/17	06/30/17	09/01/17
10/02/15	03/31/16	04/01/16	09/30/16	10/01/16	03/31/17	04/01/17	09/30/17	12/01/17

2B. New Patient Retention Measure

Applicable to All HIV Clinical Care Facilities

Measure	Percentage of new patients who have their initial clinical care visit during the first 4 months of the 12-month measurement period who had an clinical care visit in each of the subsequent 4-month periods in the measurement period
Numerator	Number of new patients who had at least one clinical care visit in each 4-month period of the measurement period
Denominator	Number of patients who were new to the clinic AND had at least one clinical care visit in the first 4 months of the measurement period
Patient Numerator and Denominator Exclusions	
1. Patients who are documented to be deceased at any time in the measurement period	
Important Definitions	
A “clinical care visit” is defined as a visit with a medical provider with prescribing privileges.	
A “provider with prescribing privileges” is a health care professional who is licensed in their jurisdiction to prescribe ARV therapy (i.e., physician, physician assistant, and/or nurse practitioner).	
“New patients” include any patients who are <u>new to your clinic</u> . This also includes patients returning to your HIV clinic following a 2-year absence and patients transferring into your clinic. This group is <u>not</u> limited to newly diagnosed patients.	

MEASUREMENT PERIOD 12 Months						SUBMISSION DUE DATE
REPORTING PERIOD 4-Month Period 1 During which active patients are counted (denominator)		4-Month Period 2		4-Month Period 3		
MEASUREMENT & REPORTING PERIOD START DATE	PERIOD 1 END DATE	PERIOD 2 START DATE	PERIOD 2 END DATE	PERIOD 3 START DATE	MEASUREMENT PERIOD END DATE	
10/01/14	01/31/15	02/01/15	05/31/15	06/01/15	09/30/15	12/01/15
01/01/15	04/01/15	05/01/15	08/31/15	09/01/15	12/31/15	03/01/16
04/01/15	07/31/15	08/01/15	11/30/15	12/01/15	03/31/16	06/01/16
07/01/15	10/30/15	11/01/15	02/28/16	03/01/16	06/30/16	09/01/16
10/1/15	01/31/16	02/01/16	05/31/16	06/01/16	09/30/16	12/01/16
01/01/16	04/30/16	05/01/16	08/31/16	09/01/16	12/31/16	03/01/17
04/01/16	07/31/16	08/01/16	11/30/16	12/01/16	03/31/17	06/01/17
07/01/16	10/31/16	11/01/16	02/28/17	03/01/17	06/30/17	09/01/17
10/1/16	01/31/17	02/01/17	05/31/17	06/01/17	09/30/17	12/01/17

3. ENGAGEMENT IN HIV CLINICAL CARE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES, GENERAL MEDICAL & DENTAL

3. Clinical Engagement Measure

Applicable to all free-standing, non-HIV clinical care supportive service, general medical, and/or dental programs

For supportive services, general medical, and/or dental services co-located within HIV clinical care facilities:

- For HIV clinical care programs with fully integrated supportive services, general medical, and/or dental services it is NOT NECESSARY to report on this measure.
- For HIV clinical care programs without fully integrated supportive services, general medical, and/or dental services it IS NECESSARY to report on this measure.
- For HIV clinical care programs with HIV+ clients who receive only supportive services, general medical, and/or dental services and not HIV clinical care services from your agency, it IS NECESSARY to report on this measure.

Measure	Percentage of active HIV clients/patients with a supportive service, general medical, or dental visit during the reporting period who have a documented or self-reported clinical care visit within the prior 6 months
Numerator	Number of active HIV clients/patients, who had a supportive service, general medical, or dental visit within the 3-month reporting period, who had a documented or self-reported HIV clinical care visit within the prior 6-month period
Denominator	Number of active HIV clients/patients who had a supportive service, general medical, or dental visit within the 3-month reporting period
Patient Numerator and Denominator Exclusions	
1. Patients who are documented to be deceased at any time in the measurement period	
Important Definitions	
A “clinical care visit” is defined as a visit with a medical provider with prescribing privileges. A “provider with prescribing privileges” is a health care professional who is licensed in their jurisdiction to prescribe ARV therapy (i.e., physician, physician assistant, and/or nurse practitioner).	

MEASUREMENT PERIOD 9 Months			SUBMISSION DUE DATE
Up to 6 months prior: Review if client from the reporting period had a documented/self-reported clinical care visit	REPORTING PERIOD 3 months: HIV clients/patients with a supportive service, general medical or dental visit (denominator)		
MEASUREMENT PERIOD START DATE	REPORTING PERIOD START DATE	MEASUREMENT & REPORTING PERIOD END DATE	
02/01/15	08/01/15	10/30/15	12/01/15
05/01/15	11/01/15	01/31/16	03/01/16
08/01/15	02/01/16	04/30/16	06/01/16
11/01/15	05/01/16	07/31/16	09/01/16
02/01/16	08/01/16	10/31/16	12/01/16
05/01/16	11/01/16	01/31/17	03/01/17
08/01/16	02/01/17	04/30/17	06/01/17
11/01/16	05/01/17	07/31/17	09/01/17
02/01/17	08/01/17	10/31/17	12/01/17

4. VIRAL LOAD SUPPRESSION

4. VLS Measure

Applicable to all programs

Measure	Percentage of patients who are considered suppressed as derived from the last recorded viral load of the review period; “suppressed” defined as the viral load is <200 copies/ ml ₃ (either detectable or undetectable).
Numerator	Number of patients with an HIV viral load below 200 copies/ml ₃ at the last HIV viral load test during the reporting period.
Denominator	All patients within the measurement period
Patient Numerator and Denominator Exclusions	
None	
Important Definitions	
MI = Millileter Patient = Any HIV+ person with a clinical visit within the measurement period.	

MEASUREMENT PERIOD all patients (denominator) 12 Months		SUBMISSION DUE DATE
REPORTING PERIOD 12 months: clients/patients with an HIV viral load <200 copies/ml at the last HIV viral load test (numerator)		
REPORTING PERIOD START DATE	MEASUREMENT & REPORTING PERIOD END DATE	
10/01/14	09/30/15	12/01/15
01/01/15	12/31/15	03/01/16
04/01/15	03/31/16	06/01/16
07/01/15	06/30/16	09/01/16
10/01/15	09/30/16	12/01/16
01/01/16	12/31/16	03/01/17
04/01/16	03/31/17	06/01/17
07/01/16	06/30/17	09/01/17
10/01/16	09/30/17	12/01/17