

HIV/AIDS

AN UPDATE FOR HOME HEALTHCARE CLINICIANS

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, once fatal, has become a chronic disease that can be treated and well-managed. Antiretroviral treatment (ART) can result in undetectable levels of HIV in the bloodstream. The risk factors, transmission, diagnosis, treatment, acute HIV infection, potential opportunistic infections, and malignancies should be understood by all those caring for persons living with HIV. Preventive treatment is possible with preexposure and postexposure prophylaxis regimens. Home healthcare providers can assist individuals to adhere to medication regimens, monitor efficacy of treatment, recognize complications of HIV and side effects of ART. Most importantly, they can support, educate, and counsel persons living with HIV and their families.

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