

Background

Who We Are

AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) is a global organization providing care and advocacy to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) through integrated healthcare delivery. The domestic healthcare centers offer specialized primary care services for HIV-positive clients at 26 sites nationwide.

Meaningful Use

Meaningful use is a program sponsored by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) incentivizing providers and hospitals to adopt electronic health records (EHR) to improve the quality of health care. Benefits of meaningful use include:

- Complete and accurate information
- Better access to information
- Patient empowerment

Stage 1 of Meaningful Use is employing certified EHR technology to identify patient-specific educational resources and provide those resources to the patient, if applicable. This measure set requires 10% of unique patients to be documented as receiving patient-specific educational resources.

Fact Sheets

AHF Fact Sheet Library

AHF maintains a Fact Sheet Library of educational handouts designed for people living with HIV/AIDS. The Library contains 77 fact sheets with topics relevant to this population:

- Advice for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)
- Antiretroviral Medications
- Health Conditions Common to PLWHA

Videx and Videx EC® (Videx EC capsules) (didanosine)

Videx EC 400mg

There are five classes of HIV (medications) meds. They will not prevent or cure HIV. They limit how the virus makes copies of itself in your body. Videx EC is in the class of meds called nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs or Nukes).

There is a generic form of Videx EC.

Who Should Take Videx EC?
Both adults and children can take Videx EC. People who have or have had these health problems should talk to their doctor before they start taking Videx EC:

- Heavy alcohol use
- Drug use
- Liver or kidney disease
- Gout
- Inflamed pancreas
- Certain diseases, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, high cholesterol or liver or pancreas disease.
- Fingers or toes are numb or single
- Pregnant

Take your HIV treatment just how your doctor tells you. Do not miss any doses, even if you feel well. When the meds are in your body, they will help you get better HIV.

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Tuberculosis (TB)

Tuberculosis (TB) is a major cause of death among people with HIV. TB is most often found in the lungs. It can also affect other parts of the body. People with HIV have a 100 times greater risk of active TB than those who do not have HIV. Active TB can spread to other people.

HIV makes TB worse. HIV and TB can work together to make a person very sick.

TB often shows up in a person with HIV years before other signs of HIV appear. A sudden case of TB can be an early sign of HIV. This is more common if the infection is somewhere other than the lungs.

TB can occur in a person at any CD4 level. People with a CD4 count of less than 200 are more likely to have TB spread to places besides their lungs.

Symptoms
Signs of active TB include:

- Cough that lasts for more than three weeks. The cough at first brings up yellow or green mucus. Later it is bloody.
- Feeling tired
- Night sweats
- Pain in the chest, back or kidneys (all three)
- Shortness of breath
- Slight fever
- Weight loss

Treatment
If a person with HIV has TB, he or she needs treatment as the TB does not become active. This helps prevent the spread to other parts of the body and to other people.

A person with TB that is not active is given an antibiotic for at least 6 months. Sometimes 1 or 2 other TB medications (meds) are also given for 3 months. This works better than just 1 type of TB med.

HIV Treatment

The choice of when to start HIV treatment can be a challenge. Many people live a long time with no symptoms of HIV. This is true even when they do not use anti-HIV medications (meds). A doctor who you trust and who has worked with other people with HIV can help you decide when to start. It is good to know about how treatment can help you and what the effects are before you begin.

When you decide to start HIV treatment, you should think about these things:

- How you feel about HIV treatment?
- How will you remember to take your medication?
- How will treatment affect your life?

Treatment of HIV and AIDS

There has been much progress made since the first HIV treatment was approved in 1987. Now more than 30 meds have been approved by the FDA to fight HIV.

HIV treatment does not cure HIV or prevent the spread to other people. They can slow the progress of HIV and help you live a healthy life for longer.

There are five classes of HIV drugs:

- Nucleoside/nucleotide reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs or Nukes)
- Non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs or Non-Nukes)
- Protease inhibitors (PIs)
- Fusion inhibitors (FIs)
- Integrase inhibitors

Project Description

Leveraging Meaningful Use

In 2012, AHF participated in the Meaningful Use for EHRs sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This opportunity was leveraged to promote health literacy through the inclusion of low literacy health education materials in the AHF Centricity Practice Solution 9.5 EHR platform. Existing educational materials in the EHR were outdated and written at the 9th-11th grade reading level.

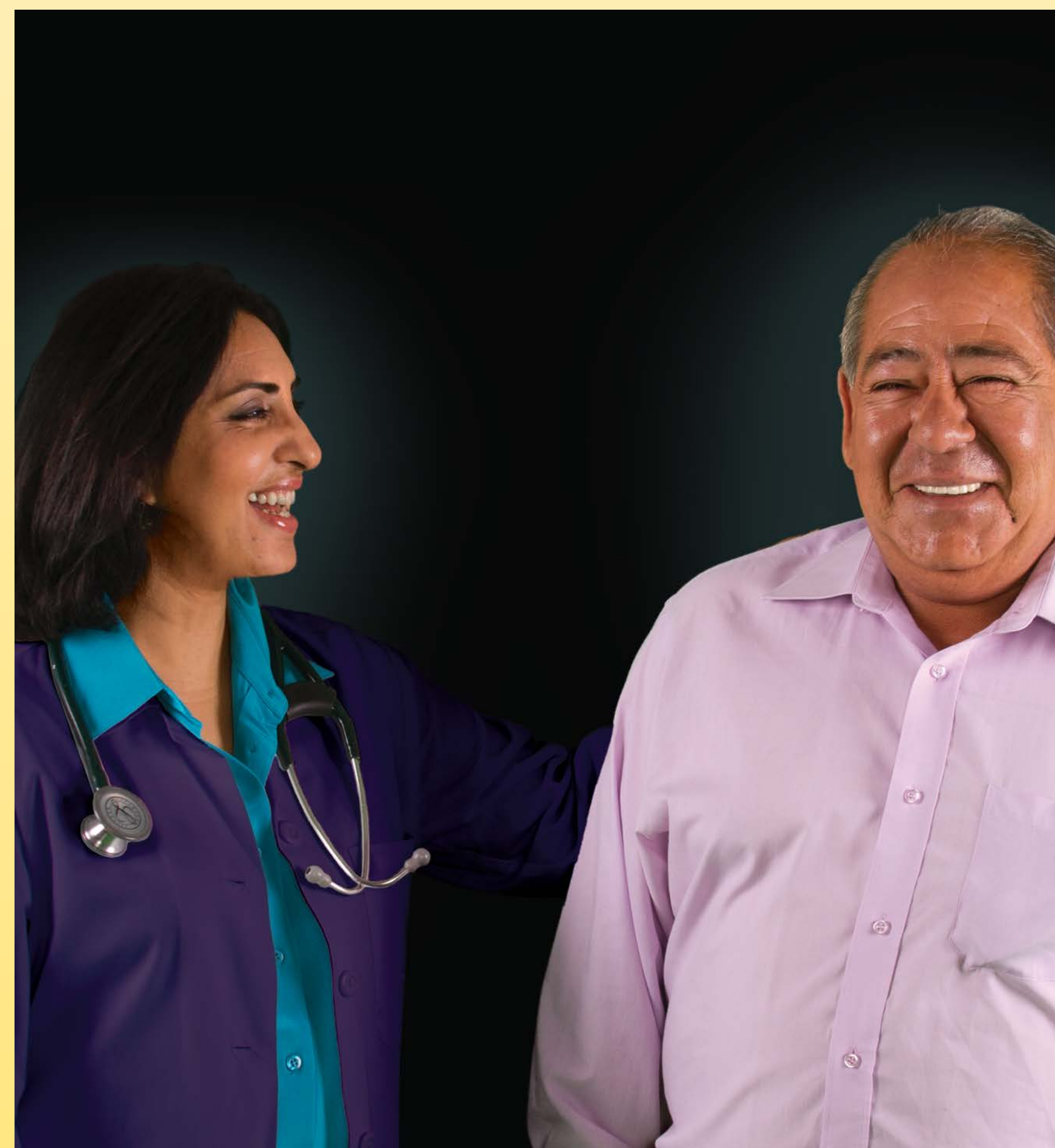
Program Objectives

- Implement health literacy best practices
- Translate the Library to Plain Language
- Reduce reading level to below 6th grade
- Engage providers in the revision process
- Translate the Fact Sheet Library into Spanish
- Replace outdated materials in the EHR

Plain Language Translation

A multidisciplinary team of clinical and non-clinical staff reviewed the content of the Library for accuracy and relevance. All invitations to participate in the review included education on the importance of providing low literacy health materials to PLWHA. Reviewers represented diverse professional expertise including:

- Physicians
- Pharmacists
- Case Managers
- Quality Professionals
- Clients



HIV affects millions of people worldwide – people living with HIV as well as their friends, families and partners. AIDS Healthcare Foundation is dedicated to providing cutting edge medicine and advocacy regardless of ability to pay.

Results

Topics	Advice for Living with HIV	Medications	Common Health Conditions
Original Reading Level	8.2	6.4	6.9
Reading Level After Revision	4.5	4.7	4.6

- Initial phases of the project included revision of the Library into plain language.
- Focus group of AHF clients guided the more effective use of fact sheet medical terminology.
- Flesh-Kincaid reading level was reduced on all fact sheets by an average 2.5 grade levels to below a 6th grade reading level.
- Revised Fact Sheet Libraries were uploaded to CPS to allow providers direct access to easy-to-read health education materials.
- Providers encouraged to distribute the handouts and document in accordance with meaningful use objectives.

Policy Implications

- Health information delivered in plain language and multiple formats increases patient comprehension
- Incentives for meaningful use adoption encourages providers to make available low-literacy educational materials for their patients
- Organizational awareness and commitment to change are strengthened leveraging public policy mandates such as health care provider adoption of meaningful use objectives

Sources

1. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Meaningful Use. Available at: http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EHRIncentivePrograms/Meaningful_Use.html. Accessibility verified on April 15, 2013.
2. Plain Language Acton and Information Network. Federal Plain Language Guidelines, Available at: <http://www.plainlanguage.gov/howto/guidelines/FederalPLGuidelines/FederalPLGuidelines.pdf>. Accessibility verified on April 15, 2013.
3. Doak CG, Doak LG, Root JR. *Teaching Patients with Low Literacy Skills* 2nd ed. Philadelphia, PN: J.B. Lippencott Company; 1996.

Target Population

People living with HIV/AIDS receiving health care services from primary care specialists in AHF healthcare centers nationwide.