

# PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH

## A Brief Safer-Sex Intervention in HIV Clinics FACT SHEET

### Program Overview

*Partnership for Health (PfH)* uses message framing, repetition, and reinforcement during patient visits to increase HIV positive patients' knowledge, skills, and motivations to practice safer sex. The program is designed to improve patient-provider communication about safer sex, disclosure of HIV serostatus, and HIV prevention. Implementation of PfH includes development of clinic and staff "buy-in" and training.

### Core Elements

Core elements of PfH include:

- Providers delivering the intervention to HIV-positive patients in HIV outpatient clinics;
- The clinic adopting prevention as an essential component of patient care;
- All clinic staff trained to facilitate prevention counseling into standard practice;
- Waiting room posters and brochures used to reinforce prevention messages delivered by the provider;
- Supportive relationships built and maintained between the patient and the provider;
- During routine visits, the provider initiates at least a 3- to 5-minute discussion with the patient on protection, partner protection, and disclosure;
- The provider incorporates good communication techniques and use of consequences-framed messages for patients or clients engaged in high risk sexual behavior;
- Referrals provided for needs that require more extensive counseling and services; and
- The prevention message integrated into clinic visits so that every patient is counseled at every visit.

### Target Population

PfH targets HIV-positive patients.

### Program Materials

The intervention materials that are used to build and maintain supportive relationships between the provider and patient include: exam and waiting room posters, informational flyers, brochures, provider pocket guides, and medical chart stickers to document counseling.

### Program Fundamentals

- 4 to 6 months start-up period
- On-site Coordinator (half-time during start-up, quarter-time thereafter)
- ½ day training of all clinic staff
- Orientation and booster training(s)
- Ongoing communications to patients
- Program monitoring and evaluation

### Research Results

Patients who had two or more sex partners or at least one casual partner and who received consequences-framed messages were:

- Significantly less likely to engage in unprotected anal or vaginal sex

### For More Information on Partnership for Health

Please contact AED at [interventions@aed.org](mailto:interventions@aed.org) with "Request for PfH Training or Information" in the subject line. Be sure to include your (name, title, organization, address, phone, email). Or you may call (800) 462-9521/ (202) 884-8712. Training is specifically for HIV clinics who can deliver/participate in the Program Fundamentals listed above. To request technical assistance on PfH, please contact Daniel Casillas, Univ. of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at (214) 645-7327 or [Daniel.Casillas@UTSouthwestern.edu](mailto:Daniel.Casillas@UTSouthwestern.edu)

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Richardson, J.L., Milam, J., McCutchan, A., Stoyanoff, S., Bolan, R., Weiss, J., Kemper, C., Larsen, R.A., Hollander, H., Weismuller, P., Chou, C.P., Marks, G. (2004). Effect of brief safer-sex counseling by medical providers to HIV-1 seropositive patients: A multi-clinic assessment. *AIDS*, 18:1179-1186