

Review of HIV Treatment Policy around Australia

Supporting the HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Workforce



ashm

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ASHM is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct and is committed to the principles of the Ottawa Charter for health promotion and the Jakarta Declaration on health promotion.

Declaration of conflicts

- Sit on the Gilead research scholarship review committee. Honoraria donated to ASHM Gift Fund
- ASHM receives funding, and sponsorship from a variety of private companies for conferences and educational events. I derive no personal benefit from these relationships.

Treatment policy

- No specific National HIV Treatment Policy
- Treatment Guidance is provided by ASHM through a panel which reviews the USA DHHS Guidelines for use of antiretroviral agents in adults and adolescents
- <http://arv.ashm.org.au/>
- States and Territories have released guidelines or recommendations, usually on a specific topic

US Guidelines: as source document

- The Guidelines do not rely on the GRADE system which is a systematic review of evidence, rather rely on a mix of evidence and expert opinion
- Advocacy approach
- <http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/guidelines/html/1/adult-and-adolescent-treatment-guidelines/0>

ASHM Guidance website

- Contextualises to Australian setting
- Has capacity to provide additional information
- Can explore specific issues in more detail
- <http://www.ashm.org.au/>

National, State & Territory Treatment Strategies

- Focus on aspirational or numeric targets
- Often refer to access issues
- Do not dictate clinical practice
- May describe pathways

Overarching Principles

- Earlier treatment more efficacious from individual patient perspective and increasing evidence supporting this
- Earlier treatment preferable from a transmission reduction perspective
- Prevention goal requires new approaches

Role for Commonwealth and national initiatives

- State and Territory work-a-rounds may facilitate access to tools of prevention and treatment (tests, prophylaxis and drugs) but these need to be facilitated in the long term with the Commonwealth.
- TGA, PBAC and MSAC
- Medicare and PBS, including dispensing