

**Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention  
HIV/AIDS Section**

**Policy:** Linkage to Care

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**Subject:** Referral to Linkage to Care (LTC)

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**Background:** Linkage to Care (LTC) is a standard service to navigate HIV positive individuals through care once they know their HIV positive result. The primary goal of Linkage to Care is to link the newly diagnosed individual into medical care. HIV/AIDS Section of the Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention recognizes that delays in seeking medical care have obvious implications both for treatment and prognosis of HIV-infected patients, and for the further propagation of the epidemic. In recognition of this problem Linkage to Care is the primary prevention/care model that will be utilized to link HIV infected persons to appropriate medical care, prevention services, and treatment soon after testing HIV positive.

**General Policy Guidelines**

**A. Eligibility**

1. Individuals must be diagnosed with HIV.
2. Never accessed HIV medical care.
3. Not already in HIV case management services.

**B. Referral process**

1. Call the Linkage to Care Coordinator (LTCC) assigned to your geographical location as soon as positive result is known.
2. The Linkage to Care Coordinator will respond within 20 minutes of the call and make arrangements to meet with the client and if possible be available immediately after a positive result is delivered.
3. Explain to the client that LTC is the standard next step after an HIV positive result and LTC Coordinator will assist with linkage to medical care, assist with medical eligibility, social services, and support. (Explain that this service is standard, but he/she has a right to refuse LTC assistance)
4. Provide support and assistance as necessary to complete referral to LTC Coordinator.

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**C. Opt out**

If the client has refused (or “opted out”) of Linkage to Care services, provide a business card of Linkage to Care Coordinator in your geographic area so that the client may access services for Linkage to Care in the future.

**D. After Business Hours**

Linkage to Care Coordinators will follow up with referrals made after business hours the following business day and the client will be given the contact information for the Linkage to Care Coordinator in their respective geographic area.

**E. HIV Infectious Disease Medical Providers**

Clients testing positive at a HIV Infectious Disease Specialist Clinic who are newly diagnosed with HIV and are engaged in medical care where medical case management is offered will be given a waiver from enrolling clients into Linkage to Care as long as 80% of these clients are enrolled in care for a 12 month period.