

# How CAREAssist Supports HIV Rapid Start in Oregon



## What Is CAREAssist?

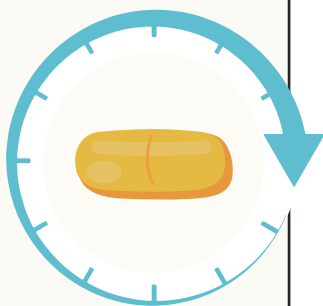
CAREAssist is Oregon's AIDS Drug Assistance Program. The CAREAssist Program is responsible for the administration of Oregon's AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). CAREAssist provides access to life-saving medications used to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and to improve the overall health of people living with HIV who have limited resources or no health insurance coverage.

CAREAssist collaborates with community partners to support End HIV Oregon, our state's initiative to end new HIV transmissions and ensure quality care for all people living with HIV.

## What Is HIV rapid start?

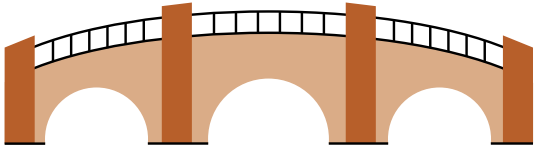
Rapid start of HIV antiretroviral therapy (ART) means starting HIV treatment as soon as possible after the diagnosis of HIV infection, preferably on the first clinic visit (and even on the same day as the HIV diagnosis). This strategy also is known as "immediate ART," "same-day ART," and "treatment upon diagnosis."

Rapid ART initiation may bring earlier benefits in personal health, and earlier reductions in the risk of onward transmission of HIV. For persons with acute infection, immediate ART may limit HIV viral load.



## How does CAREAssist support rapid start?

About 220 people in Oregon are newly diagnosed with HIV each year. Many will seek support from the CAREAssist Program. CAREAssist works with newly diagnosed individuals, HIV case managers, and medical providers to enroll clients in the following programs:



### The Bridge Program

Individuals who are uninsured, earn up to 550% of the Federal Poverty Level and need coverage for prescription medications related to their HIV care may be eligible for up to a 30-day supply through the Bridge Program, while they apply for CAREAssist and obtain insurance, which CAREAssist will pay for, if applicable. The Bridge Program can also assist with a limited number of medical services to confirm HIV diagnosis and determine appropriate HIV treatment regimens. To support rapid start, Bridge applications are reviewed and approved the same day they are received.

### ART Sample Packs

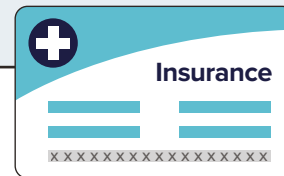
To support rapid start, providers and clinics may request free ART samples directly from the manufacturer. ART Sample Programs are not affiliated with CAREAssist but may provide needed support to clients as they are applying for CAREAssist full benefits or other services that will help them establish ongoing access to ARTs and lead to viral suppression.



### Uninsured Persons Program (UPP)

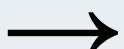


For persons who are unable to secure health insurance outside of an open enrollment period and earn up to 550% of the Federal Poverty Level, CAREAssist assists with payments for a limited number of medical services and will pay for medications necessary to begin HIV treatment. UPP applications are reviewed and approved within 7 days, but can be expedited, as needed, to support rapid start.



### CAREAssist for Insured People

Insurance plans vary widely in their coverage of medications and services, and in their required co-pays and deductibles. People who earn up to 550% of Federal Poverty Level can qualify for CAREAssist, which helps pay for these expenses. Prospective clients must fill out a full application for CAREAssist. Case managers, Early Intervention Services staff, and the CAREAssist Program staff can help people who are newly diagnosed make sure their application is correct and complete. Complete applications are reviewed and approved within 7 days, usually sooner.





## What else do I need to know about HIV rapid start?

Making sure people newly diagnosed with HIV can start on HIV medications as soon as possible is one of the key goals of End HIV Oregon, our state's initiative to end new HIV transmissions and ensure quality care for all people living with HIV. Learn more about End HIV Oregon at [endhivoregon.org](https://endhivoregon.org).

There is help for people newly diagnosed with HIV! Between CAREAssist, HIV case managers, and a statewide network of HIV medical providers, everyone living with HIV in Oregon should have access to HIV medication and medical care.

See the [CAREAssist web page](#) for more information or to apply for CAREAssist Program services.

