

UK-CAB

NEWS RELEASE

Dear Colleague,

This April saw major changes to the HIV drugs recommended by the London Specialist Commissioning Group for prescription to patients in London HIV clinics. These changes, which mandate specific regimens for treatment naïve patients unless they are contra-indicated, and request that clinicians switch stable patients to new regimes where appropriate, have been designed to help alleviate the increasing cost of NHS London's HIV drugs budget.

Although this is currently a London initiative, it is likely versions of this approach will be adopted by other English NHS regions, and NHS Scotland and NHS Wales, depending on pricing agreements arrived at locally. Furthermore, HIV treatment and care will in the future be commissioned by the NHS National Commissioning Board in England and Wales, implying the possibility of nationally mandated regimens.

In response to these changes, and to get a clearer picture of how they are impacting people living with HIV, the UK Community Advisory Board (UKCAB), the network for community HIV treatment advocates, is undertaking a study of patients who have seen changes to their drug regimen since April and of the experiences of people accessing HIV drugs from London HIV clinics.

We are now launching the first part of this work, an online and anonymous survey, and would like your help in promoting it to your members and users.

You can help us promote the survey in a number of ways:

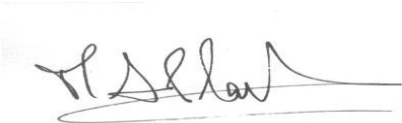
- include the web link in any emails that you send out to members;
- add a news item and the link in any bulletins or newsletters that you send out;
- Add the link to the news page of your website.

The survey will be available online for the next few months, and the information that we obtain from the data will be used to help UKCAB produce a report on how the new regime is affecting people living with HIV, positively or negatively.

We will also be producing a paper version of the survey, and will send details of how to access copies in the next few weeks.

The survey can be accessed here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/UKCABLONDONTreatmentSurvey>

If you have any questions about the survey, UKCAB, or the changes, you can contact me at mabbes@msn.com, or the UKCAB Administrator, Memory Sachikonye, at memory.sachikonye@ukcab.net



Mark Platt

Project Lead and UKCAB Member

Information about UKCAB is available at: <http://www.ukcab.net/>

Information about the prescribing changes can be found here: <http://www.aidsmap.com/prescribing-in-london>