

2020 Updates for the Maryland AIDS Drug Assistance Program

Summary of MADAP Updates for the Greater Baltimore HIV Health Services Planning Council meeting scheduled for May 19, 2020. Submitted by Arlette Lindsay, MADAP Clinical Advisor, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration, Maryland Department of Health.

In carrying out its mission, the Prevention and Health Promotion Administration is engaged in a range of public health efforts sponsored in partnership with local health departments, providers, community-based programs and shareholders working together with the vision of a healthier future for Marylanders.

Since its start in 1987, MADAP has provided life-saving prescription assistance to clients living with HIV and offered premium assistance to clients in growing numbers. The development of MADAP's client services has been fueled by further advances in HIV treatment with the support it receives from the Ryan White Program. In conjunction with the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, implemented to reduce transmission and improve care services over a ten-year period, Maryland has remained on track in reducing the rate of new HIV infection, new AIDS diagnoses and deaths due to AIDS down to levels not seen in decades. These achievements have been met with renewed efforts to end the HIV epidemic in the next ten years.

Furthermore, MADAP contributes vitally to the framework of the Maryland HIV plan and the strategy to promote early HIV diagnosis, expedite linkage to care, and help individuals living with HIV achieve viral suppression. MADAP also seeks to raise awareness among Marylanders about the availability of financial resources in pursuit of its goals of help clients get medications to manage their HIV infection and assist with lowering insurance costs to further their success with treatment adherence.

At the end of 2019, MADAP had enrolled more than 8,000 clients for prescription assistance of whom >7,300 clients were fully MADAP eligible and >4,600 clients were eligible for premium assistance with MADAP Plus. More than \$31 million dollars was spent on medications and \$15.2 million dollars on insurance premiums. While the amount spent on premium costs have risen in recent years, our drug costs have decreased and allowed us to continue enrolling new clients.

By way of review, the MADAP eligibility guidelines state that a client must:

- be HIV+,
- a MD resident
- have a gross household income < 500% FPL
- be on HIV medication(s) or starting HIV medication(s) within 3 months of enrollment, and
- not eligible for Medical Assistance

Once an applicant is approved for MADAP, the program covers 100% of drug cost for un-insured clients, deductibles, copays and co-insurance for insured client and insurance premiums for client enrolled in eligible plans. Regardless of the type of insurance, Employer-based or retiree group plans, QHP, Medicare drug coverage or Medigap plans, (or total drug costs for un-insured clients) MADAP closes the gaps in prescription and premium costs.

In addition to all FDA-approved HIV ARV and HCV meds, MADAP covers medications for many major health conditions and has added over 300 therapeutic drug classes to the formulary. Graphs are attached that summarize the number of clients utilizing specific HIV antiretroviral medications in the last two quarters of the calendar year. MADAP does not provide coverage for PrEP regimens of other HIV pre- or post-exposure prophylaxis. As MADAP makes the transition to having an open formulary, we are working to expedite the coverage of other drug classes, except for certain excluded categories.

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MADAP is making progress in streamlining and updating the enrollment procedures. In March of 2020, MADAP launched its new enrollment application and continuing enrollment verification process. This means that clients will need to complete the full application just once and then submit the continuing eligibility verification midyear and annually. Additional documentation will be required from clients, annually, unless there are any changes in a client's address, household size, income or primary coverage.

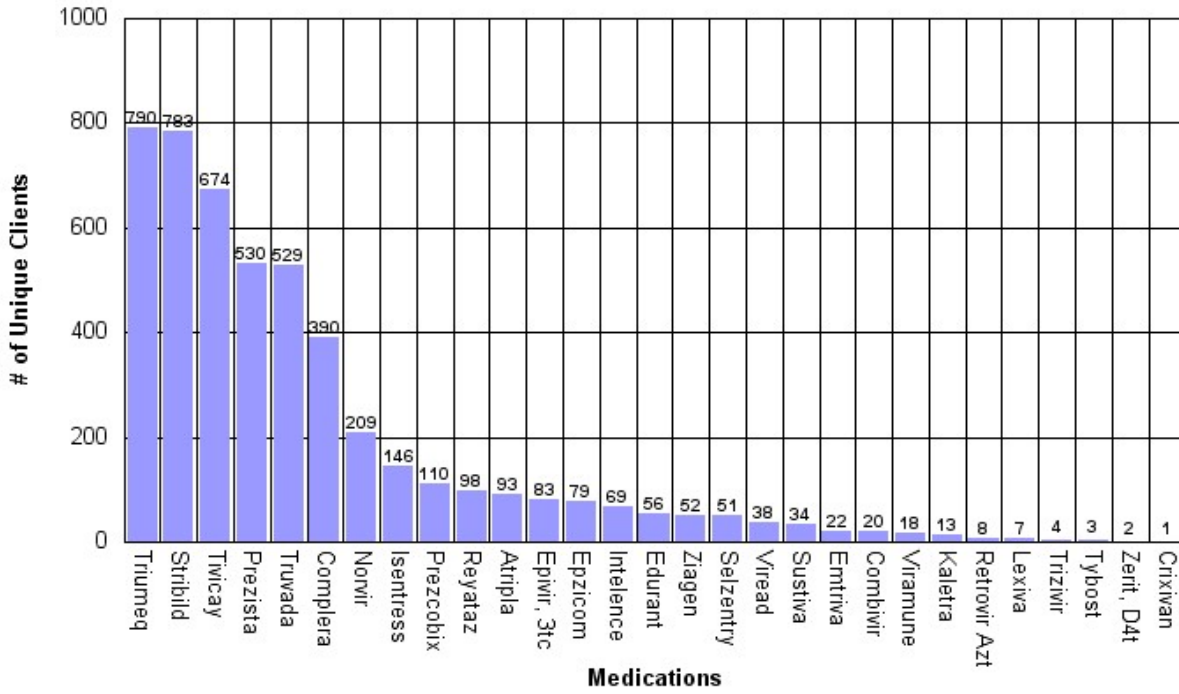
MADAP is still in the early stages of implementing a new data system to move the eligibility and payment processes to an online platform. To ensure that MADAP is the payer of last resort, our insurance team verifies each client's insurance status. We also alert uninsured clients about available health insurance resources and the premium assistance that MADAP provides.

As part of the eligibility process, MADAP collects medical information on the client's initial application and monitors viral load levels. In the past six years, the percentage of virally suppressed clients has risen from 86% to 93%. This is due in many respects to the availability of ins under the Affordable Care Act, dedicated providers supported by Ryan White and the diligent involvement of MADAP and other offices at the Infectious Diseases Prevention and Health Services Bureau.

Due to the current state of emergency for the coronavirus, many of our staff are working remotely with a limited number of individuals allowed on the premises. For this reason, MADAP is not allowed to see clients on walk-in visits but has advised clients and case managers to submit application and documents by fax or mail. Also, MADAP posted an announcement about extending the eligibility period for clients during this emergency period. If clients experience loss of employment and/or insurance coverage, MADAP MUST BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY. Furthermore, MADAP has waived early refill requirements for requests of a 90-day supply of medications.

This emergency has led to the cancellation our in-person trainings and outreach programs this Spring. However, MADAP is conducting a 2-day webinar for case manager and client advocates on May 19th and 20th. Anyone interested in attending the webinar may call MADAP for more information. While MADAP expects to conduct a Fall forum to highlight the Open enrollment periods for 2021 insurance coverage, details about the location or training platform are pending. Meanwhile, MADAP is open for business, reachable by phone or fax and eager to be of service.

Utilization by Medication
 All Antiretroviral Drugs by # of Unique Clients
 For Calendar Year 2020 Quarter 1



Utilization by Medication
 All Antiretroviral Drugs by # of Unique Clients
 For Calendar Year 2019 Quarter 4

